



Daily Report

East Europe

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Deputies Approve Agenda, View Turkish Statement

*AU0212091092 Tirana ATA in English 0933 GMT
1 Dec 92*

[Text] Tirana, December 1 (ATA)—At the beginning of the sitting of the People's Assembly on November 30, Mr. Pjeter Arbndori presented the agenda of the People's Assembly for this week, proposed by the Presidency of the Assembly and the parliamentary groups. Amongst the problems to be discussed, he mentioned draft laws, addition to the laws, decrees of the president, etc. On December 3, he said, there will take place the motion with the minister of education and on the proposal of the Foreign Commission there will also be held another sitting on the situation in the Balkans. Mr. Arbndori instructed the commissions to step up work for examining the draft laws and other amendments, particularly that of education which will follow.

Questions, debates, and proposals were submitted in regard to the project. Deputy Gago Apostoli, of the Social Democratic Party, suggested the Presidency of the Assembly to submit to the parliament the draft law for civil protection in case of natural calamities and asked to provide support and help to the respective association.

The chairman of the parliamentary group of the Socialist Party, Namik Dokle pointed to the delay of premier for a sitting with questions and demanded that the government accelerate the preparations for the draft law on opening the files.

Deputy P. Majko of the Socialist Party requested that the president of Albania, deputies, and president of Kosovo be present at the debate on the situation in the Balkans and demanded explanations why is the Shkoder trial postponed (it was fixed on November 20).

The deputies unanimously endorsed the agenda.

Mr. Pjeter Arbndori read the statement of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, which expresses the worry over the racism and xenophobia which is giving rise to anxiety in Germany and other Western European countries and calls on the Western countries and all international organizations to increase the fight against racism and xenophobia in the context of Paris Charter.

Then the Assembly examined and approved the draft law on some changes to the Law on the Trade Unions in the Republic of Albania.

During this sitting there were endorsed the first five articles.

In the end of the sitting, the deputy Arben Likaj of the Democratic Party took the floor. On behalf of a group of students of students' movement of December, he demanded

to conduct the political process against the Party of Labor of Albania, which usurped power and secretly and publicly perpetrated crimes against the nationals of its country. Then he read the indictment, which had been handed to the General Investigation Office of the Republic of Albania.

Amongst others it points to the key moments of the crimes perpetrated by the Party of Labor of Albania in the course of 50 years. In conclusion, Deputy Lika said that we will persist in holding this process, otherwise we will appeal to international organizations as the Hague Court and will also bring in an indictment against the Supreme Court for hiding the organized crime during 50 years time in Albania.

The next sitting continues on December 1.

Trade Agreement With EC Takes Effect 1 Dec

*AU0212172792 Tirana ATA in English 0923 GMT
2 Dec 92*

[Text] Tirana, December 2 (ATA)—The agreement on the economic-trade cooperation between Albania and European Community signed on May 11, 1992 in Brussels came into force on December 1. The EC will help Albania adhere to the international organisations and conventions.

The diplomatic relations between Albania and EC were established by the middle of 1991. Albania considers these relations as very important. Being a European country, Albania, which hopes for speedy economic recovery, through the aid of the other developed countries, especially EC, wishes to have the place it deserves in the European geopolitical map. In the fall of last year it joined the group of the countries included in the general system of preferences for exports. At the same time, Albania was included in the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] Programme. Meanwhile, another programme of aid for education and culture is being worked out. Albania takes part and profits from the Tempus Programme, while G-24 gathered twice in less than four months in Tirana.

Until now the relations may be considered as aid of the Community and its member countries to cope with the urgent food needs of Albania. This aid is worth 136 million ECU [European Currency Units]. But this is only a part of the Community's aid, as the other, tens of millions of ECU are sanitary aid, aid for agriculture, import of raw materials and spare parts. The EC aid for Albania is over 280 million ECU (nearly 365 million dollars).

This agreement broadens the cooperation between Albania and EC and paves the way to the agreement of association. Since December 1, 1992 the Community and the member countries will begin de jure the realization of the commitments to Albania's approach to their fold.

Boyadzhiev Promises To Resume Union Talks*AU0312093692 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network
in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Today leaders of the KNSB [Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria] held talks with Mr. Petur Boyadzhiev in his capacity as candidate for prime minister. Last Monday [30 November] Mr. Boyadzhiev received the proposal addressed by the KNSB to the new government, known as "the KNSB's Nine Points." He had studied the document and expressed the view that dialogue with the trade unions is essential. Mr. Boyadzhiev stated that, if elected as prime minister, he would immediately attempt to reestablish the system of social partnership.

The issue of the trade unions' property was also examined at the meeting. Mr. Boyadzhiev voiced his view that this issue is without precedent in Europe and has to be resolved as soon as possible.

Dimitrov Reaffirms Opposition to Boyadzhiev*AU0212222092 Sofia BTA in English 2035 GMT
2 Dec 92*

[Text] Sofia, December 2 (BTA)—At the request of prime minister designate Petur Boyadzhiev, later today he was received by Mr. Filip Dimitrov, chairman of the National Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS]. Mr. Boyadzhiev set out his views on the policy his cabinet would pursue.

After the meeting Mr. Filip Dimitrov said that no change would be made in the position which the SDS expressed yesterday: It would not support a prime minister nominated by the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

"There was nothing new during our one-hour-long conversation which could have made us revise our position. Therefore it remains unchanged," the SDS leader said.

Some members of the parliamentary group of the Union of Democratic Forces maintain that an attempt should be made to come to agreement with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] again, but the decision on a new coalition government is a political one and it could be made only by the National Coordinating Council, Mr. Edvin Sugarev, deputy floor leader of the SDS parliamentary group, said later today. If we come to the variant of forming a coalition government with the DPS, the SDS will not make more compromises than the ones already made at the previous negotiations, Mr. Sugarev said this evening, appearing in the "Repercussions" commentary programme of the national television. We will ask for reliable guarantees that such a cabinet would last long enough, he added. In his opinion, this could be achieved by signing a kind of coalition agreement or even by forming a joint parliamentary group. Mr. Sugarev did not support the sign-in campaign launched by part of the members of the SDS parliamentary group.

DPS Rejects Boyadzhiev Candidacy*AU0212194892 Sofia BTA in English 1931 GMT
2 Dec 92*

[Text] Sofia, December 2 (BTA)—The parliamentary factions of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) and the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) met today, making the first move towards bridging the confidence gap which opened between them after Filip Dimitrov's SDS government collapsed and the two political forces failed to agree on the formation of a coalition cabinet.

At their meeting today the MP's [members of parliament] discussed the political situation in the country and the possible ways out of the cabinet crisis. According to DPS spokesman Yunal Lyutfi, in their statements a number of MP's suggested that the two parliamentary factions start discussions on maximizing the DPS mandate for the formation of a coalition government. Under the Constitution, if the Socialist Party fails to form a cabinet, it is the turn of the DPS as the third largest parliamentary party. Immediately after parliament defeated Filip Dimitrov's nomination as prime minister, DPS leader Ahmed Dogan said that if the movement is assigned a mandate, it will offer the SDS a coalition government.

Back at the end of last week, half of the SDS MP's declared themselves in favour of a resumption of negotiations with the DPS. Yesterday the SDS National Coordinating Council resolved that the two parliamentary factions should get in touch. According to SDS MP's, it is still too early to discuss a possible coalition government of the two forces in case the DPS gets the mandate.

The parliamentary DPS today considered the Socialists' candidate for the prime ministership Mr. Petur Boyadzhiev. DPS leader Ahmed Dogan told the press after that that the figure of Petur Boyadzhiev travestied the idea of national concord and was unacceptable to the movement. Statements by other leading DPS figures also made it clear that it is unlikely to support a cabinet formed by Mr. Boyadzhiev.

BSP, OSD Reaffirm Support*AU0212183692 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network
in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Today President Zhelyu Zhelev handed prime minister nominee Petur Boyadzhiev a decree asking him to form a government within one week. According to Boyadzhiev, the seven days will be sufficient for him to obtain the support of all the political forces and to rescue the country from the crisis.

At a news conference held at the National Assembly in Sofia, Nora Ananieva told reporters of her meeting with Zhelev today, and Zhan Videnov, leader of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], briefed them on the meeting between the leaderships of the BSP and the Party for

Unification of Bulgaria. By 9 December at the latest, Boyadzhiev will present to the National Assembly his proposed cabinet and program. Boyadzhiev has received assurance from the BSP leadership that he will have the full support of the Socialists and their coalition partners in the National Assembly. Boyadzhiev will have full freedom of action. Videnov says that Boyadzhiev will succeed in forming a strong government that will receive the support of all sensibly thinking deputies in the three parliamentary groups.

Boyadzhiev has expressed his intention to submit a proposal to the National Assembly on regulating relations between the state institutions.

Videnov believes that Zhelev could have been more active during the days when he was receiving proposals for candidate prime ministers, but the president gave no commitment to help.

At a news conference held by the Alliance for Social Democracy [OSD] it was stated that, as a personality and a politician, Petur Boyadzhiev is sufficiently well-known to have a chance of being supported by forces that are concerned with the country's interests. According to Georgi Pirinski, early elections are an extremely unfavorable solution that would mean another wasted year for the economy. Boyadzhiev's chances depend on the support of the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS]. In Filip Bokov's view, it is doubtful that the DPS will provide this support, despite Boyadzhiev's involvement in the campaign to restore the names of Bulgarian Turks.

The parliamentary groups of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] and DPS have opened a joint meeting. The National Assembly deputies are expected to clarify their position regarding the mandate granted to the BSP to form a government, and in particular concerning Boyadzhiev. In the view of most of the deputies, the meeting will also examine the possibilities of continuing the contacts and consultations between the SDS and DPS and the likely directions for dialogue on how to emerge from the present political crisis.

SDS Undecided

AU0212151192 Sofia BTA in English 1339 GMT
2 Dec 92

[Report by Iva Toncheva]

[Text] Sofia, December 2 (BTA)—Mathematician Petur Boyadzhiev, 51, nominated to the premiership by the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), received from President Zhelyu Zhelev a seven-day mandate to form a cabinet. He is expected to present his cabinet in parliament next Wednesday [9 December].

Petur Boyadzhiev, one of the leaders of the extraparlimentary Alliance for Bulgaria, will ask ministers of the cabinet headed by Filip Dimitrov, who resigned under pressure in late October, to enter the new government. At a news conference today he declined to name names.

Mr. Boyadzhiev is optimistic about the formation of the cabinet and its approval by parliament.

The BSP-nominated candidate will hold consultations with the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) and the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), with extraparliamentary forces and the trade unions.

Petur Boyadzhiev told the press today that the Socialist Party has set no conditions at all, in writing or oral. "There was no bargaining but, of course, I have a moral commitment to the BSP," he told this reporter. His decision to accept the nomination "was neither spontaneous nor emotional, nor did it stem from career ambitions." Asked whether he would ask Socialists to accept ministerial posts, he said he would have to consider whether this would be expedient. "The cabinet will not include people with a high political profile," Mr. Boyadzhiev said.

The votes of the parliamentary DPS will be decisive for the election of Petur Boyadzhiev and his government. According to him, Bulgarians still "consider the DPS a party formed on an ethnic basis." At today's press conference he said the DPS leaders should place the movement on a broader base. Petur Boyadzhiev is known to have made a statement that the DPS should not play a key role in the Bulgarian Parliament.

The SDS has not taken an official position on Boyadzhiev's nomination yet. At a regular press conference of the SDS-affiliated Union of Free Democrats, its leader Ivan Kalchev declared Petur Boyadzhiev absolutely unacceptable as a candidate, citing his nationalistic statements as sufficient grounds.

Petur Boyadzhiev told the press today that he was the only candidate on the BSP's list of possible candidates for the premiership found unacceptable by President Zhelyu Zhelev. Mr. Boyadzhiev charged that the president showed "mounting ambitions to increase his powers" and that he did not conceal his intention to form a caretaker government.

More People Attempt To Cross Border Illegally

AU0212090792 Sofia BTA in English 1356 GMT
1 Dec 92

[Text] Khaskovo, southern Bulgaria, December 1, (BTA)—More offenders are attempting to illegally cross Bulgaria's border with Turkey and Greece. Almost 200 persons have been caught in an attempt to get round border checkpoints this year, against 50 last year.

Many offenders are Romanian citizens trying to get into Greece. Bulgarians, too, are eager to slip across the Bulgarian-Greek border. Most offenders illegally entering this country are citizens of Asian or African states on their way to Germany or some other West

European country. These people usually lack identification documents or money and place a heavy burden on the regional police department in Svilengrad.

The specific problems posed by illegal border crossings may be settled by the National Office on Territorial Asylum and Refugees due to be set up, police say. It would deal with legal and administrative protection of foreigners seeking asylum, as is the case in civilized countries.

Other border checkpoints, too, report cases of border violations.

Dialogue With Serbia To Promote Peace Urged

AU0212182592 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 25 Nov 92 pp 1, 2

[Article by Nikolay Kolev-Bossiya: "Is Serbia Our Neighbor?"]

[Text] Personally, I have the feeling that Serbia is not a neighbor of Bulgaria. If one could judge by the actions of the Bulgarian politicians, Serbia is somewhere thousands of kilometers and hundreds of years away from Bulgaria. Our politicians of all colors remember Serbia only when they need to produce a populist statement and say something about the western regions and Macedonia.

Our politicians are still at the age of a baby who just learned how to walk. Precisely like those babies they raise their hands and say: "Look how big I am!" Is it really so?

Whatever we do or think, Serbia remains our neighbor. This is the starting point of thinking and acting, rather than whether or not we like Serbian policy. While our politicians are waiting for the opposition to turn into a ruling party in Serbia, the other neighbors are not idle. They initiate contacts and promote their own interests. We, on the other hand, started from zero. Now we have reached it from the other direction. We did the same with all other neighbors—but this is a topic for another article.

I paid a private visit to Belgrade and met Vuk Draskovic and his deputy, Milan Komnenic. I would not say that there were no common topics and close positions. Generally, the leaders of the Serbian Democratic Movement are relatively moderate nationalists, and this creates the possibility to seek common directions and solutions.

Serbia is in a very grave political situation from both a domestic and a foreign policy point of view. What could be a better time to conduct a dialogue? Unfortunately, nobody thinks about it. The lack of strategic thinking in our politicians has become evident. (Here I do not mean the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]. The BSP created a good model through the Alliance for Social Democracy. For the BSP the Alliance for Social Democracy is precisely what the KGB was for the CPSU. They are close and allied, but they have a different strategy. The CPSU

wants to rule through a firm course of a totalitarian policy, while the KGB seeks the flexible form of economic subjugation. The common goal of ruling leads to a mutually beneficial symbiosis).

Let us be brief and propose a timely solution.

Let a Bulgarian party or coalition seek contact with the Serbian Democratic Movement, and more specifically with Vuk Draskovic. Let the common positions and the differences in the concepts become clear at free and unofficial talks. We could only benefit from this. The Serbian side will also benefit, even if relations do not significantly strengthen. A positive change in Bulgarian-Serbian relations could be achieved only through patience and a proper analysis. I personally am ready to propose to the interested parties and coalitions cooperation to effect such a meeting or a series of meetings.

Bulgaria will practically begin to be a new Bulgaria. Whether we like it or not, we also will become new people. Bulgaria now needs a new domestic and foreign policy. Our relations with our neighbors have priority importance. The degree of political prudence could be judged on the basis of relations with the neighbors. The logic of the reality dictates a flexible and pragmatic road toward our neighbors. Otherwise, the threat of becoming a part of the spark that could explode the Balkan powder keg is very real.

Commentary Discusses Interests in Balkan Peace

AU0312100592 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 26 Nov 92 p 6

[Commentary by Maksim Bozhilov: "Diplomacy and Interests"]

[Text] On 24 November, the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed serious concern with the deterioration of the situation in former Yugoslavia. For his part Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganey sent a letter to Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen [cochairmen of the Conference on Yugoslavia] and to the UN secretary general, in which he demanded the convening of an urgent meeting of his counterparts from countries which participate in the peace conference on Yugoslavia.

The conclusions are obvious, and the activity of Bulgarian diplomacy also is understandable. When a neighbor's house is burning, the sparks could easily fly to other places in the Balkan Peninsula, and even an "island of stability" could be affected. At such a moment, every country tries to protect itself and its interests. For example, Greece thinks that a state called Macedonia could jeopardize its security. Turkey demands "limited UN intervention" in Bosnia-Herzegovina and seeks contacts (including military contacts) with Romania and other Balkan countries.

However, the world public hardly knows the national interests being protected by Bulgarian diplomacy. Minister Ganey demands "the halting of these explosive

developments through diplomatic means," and insists on "discussing all aspects of the situation in former Yugoslavia." That is all. Such a modesty in this particular case can hardly be understood.

New Visa Agreement With Turkey Proposed

*AU0212140292 Sofia BTA in English 1212 GMT
2 Dec 92*

[Text] Sofia, December 2 (BTA)—Bulgaria will discontinue the operation of its visa agreement with Turkey signed in 1979 in three months time, the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry announced today.

In a note presented to the Turkish Embassy in Sofia, the Foreign Ministry proposes that the two countries start negotiations on the signing of a new visa agreement reflecting the principles of friendship, good-neighbourly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation in bilateral relations as well as the new international realities. The Bulgarian side believes that the now operative agreement does not cover fully the present problems in the field of the movement of citizens between Bulgaria and Turkey.

The 1979 agreement does not correspond to the new conditions, especially in some parts providing for visa-free transit regulations, which has negative consequences for the Bulgarian side in the field of finance, transport, road maintenance, environment protection and migration, the announcement of the Foreign Ministry reads.

Army Chief Petrov Gives Views on Discipline

*AU0312091292 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA
in Bulgarian 26 Nov 92 pp 1, 3*

[Interview with Colonel General Lyuben Petrov, chief of the Bulgarian Army General Staff, by Colonel Engineer Veselin Stoyanov; date and place not given: "Democracy, One-Man Command, Discipline Must Be United"]

[Excerpts] Today an expanded meeting of the General Staff Military Council on Disciplinary Issues in the Bulgarian Army will take place. Representatives of the following bodies have been invited to participate: The Presidency; the Council of Ministers; the National Assembly; the leadership of the Ministry of Defense in the persons of the minister, its deputies, and the departmental heads; the Armed Forces Inspectorate; the commanders of the various branches of the Armed Forces and their deputies, army commanders, deputy commanders, and staff chiefs; the heads of the military schools; the Armed Forces prosecutor; and the chairman of the G. S. Rakovski Bulgarian Officer Legion.

This was the reason for requesting the meeting with Colonel General Lyuben Petrov, chief of the Bulgarian Army General Staff.

[Stoyanov] On the eve of this serious and businesslike meeting, would you please tell us about its purpose? Are you concerned that some of the participants could ask,

either aloud or tacitly, the question: "How long shall we continue to deal with discipline by talking about it at meetings?"

[Petrov] First of all, I would like to point out that at the meeting we will strive to analyze comprehensively army discipline and order over the last year, and on that basis to clarify which problems have not been resolved and their causes, and with joint efforts to set out the future direction of our work.[passage omitted]

[Stoyanov] For many months the General Staff and Army bodies have been sharply criticized for various accidents. Would you like to comment on this criticism?

[Petrov] We can only be grateful when the criticism is well-founded, regardless of how bitter this is. However, many times the reproaches are biased, incorrect, and are aimed at discrediting the leadership of the Bulgarian Army. Such actions are not in the interest of our army or people. The overwhelming majority of the commanders have often proven their loyalty to the changes that are taking place in the country, as well as their readiness to lead the military with more prudence, moderation, and calm.

[Stoyanov] What are you going to stress in your statement at the meeting?

[Petrov] The discipline situation continues to be alarming. I shall dwell first of all on the accident which involved fatalities. Obviously, it is necessary to apply particular attention and high criteria in selecting people for all command positions. Special attention will be paid to abuses and outrages.

The legal and social protection of the military, the changes in the system of values, glasnost in the Army, and control and assistance effected by the General Staff over the troops—those are other factors I will mention. And I take this opportunity to invite a representative of your Editorial Board to attend the meeting.

Daily Says Nationality Policy 'Failing Miserably'

*AU0312093892 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian
25 Nov 92 p 6*

[Commentary by Katya Karagyaurova: "Our Nationality Policy Soundly Fails"]

[Text] We have listened to many voices discussing our nationality policy over the last three years. Some made shrill claims that under socialism the policy had ruined our nation. Others explained mildly that if they were to assume power, things would change, and the hundreds of thousands of Bulgarians across the border would not be neglected, as had been the custom under socialism. Only two months ago a sweet voice again reminded us of that promise.

It reminded us of the issue in a kind and melodious way, describing moving meetings with Bulgarians in Bessarabia and Tavriya. [Reference to Vice President Blaga

Dimitrova's August visits to Bessarabia and Tavriya. "Blaga" means "sweet" in Bulgarian]. It appears that this exhausted the interest toward our compatriots abroad. The Presidency, parliament and the government have in no way indicated that they care about those people. Recently it became known that the humanitarian aid of 5 million leva, which in summer the National Assembly decided to allocate for those who were suffering in the Dniester region, never reached them at all.

One year ago, it was announced that the Bulgarians in Moldova, Ukraine, and other former Soviet republics will be able to obtain Bulgarian citizenship through a simple procedure. However, not one of the 500 requests was granted. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has still not resolved the issue of remunerating Bulgarian teachers who will travel to Moldova and Ukraine, and thus our compatriots there will again be deprived of the chance to study their mother tongue at a professional level.

Another promise was also not fulfilled. More than two years ago, the "Rodolyubets" Association on Relations With Bulgarians in Bessarabia and Tavriya proposed to establish a state body in charge of Bulgarians living abroad. A decree on establishing an agency for Bulgarians living abroad was adopted only in September 1992. Nevertheless, until today nothing has really been done to establish it.

There is still no law on refugees. No one cares about them. Chased away by the developments in the former Soviet republics, our compatriots return to their old motherland. However, it offers them nothing. Men, who throughout their life have cultivated foreign land, now want to cultivate their own Bulgarian land. Nevertheless, despite the fact that there is a shortage of manpower in the villages, they cannot work in agriculture, because parliament rejected the proposal to establish a land fund for assisting Bulgarians returning from abroad to acquire land.

The tears shed for our brothers across the border were crocodile tears. The promises made were false. It is clear that our new nationality policy is failing miserably.

Democratic Center Criticizes Present Parliament

*AU0312091992 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network
in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] The Bulgarian Democratic Center [BDC] wants a speedy solution to the government crisis and strict

observance of the constitutional procedures, a declaration issued by the BDC Press Center states.

Later in the declaration it becomes clear that the BDC is worried by the sharp decline in the authority of the institutions of state and by the unsuccessful attempts in the National Assembly to satisfy solely narrow party-propaganda aims, which proves the BDC viewpoint that the present parliament has exhausted its possibilities and is pushing the country into early elections.

The BDC sympathizes with the reasonable deputies who have done everything possible to avert the parliamentary crisis. Regrettably, the declaration states, it must be pointed out that with the present configuration in parliament a government, even if one is formed, will be a hostage to narrow party interests and scheming.

Assembly Amends Environmental Protection Act

*AU0312105092 Sofia BTA in English 0913 GMT
3 Dec 92*

[Text] Sofia, December 3 (BTA)—Last night parliament passed an act amending the Environmental Protection Act. The bill was introduced at the beginning of this year by the Ministry of the Environment and passed the first-reading vote in May. This is the first in a series of laws shaping the country's new environment policy. It is to be followed by several other laws dealing with individual components of the environment: Protection of the atmosphere, waters, protected wilderness tracts, etc.

The most substantial amendment to the Environmental Protection Act, which was adopted a year ago by the Grand National Assembly, was the introduction of charges for utilization of natural resources and environmental pollution within admissible limits. Besides, the fines for pollution above the acceptable levels will be increased considerably. The amount of charges and fines will be fixed by the Council of Ministers, depending on the condition of the country's environment and economy. Under the act, the money thus raised will go into a special fund which will be used for environmental protection only: The municipal environmental protection funds will receive 40 percent of the revenue from charges on admissible pollution and 30 percent of the fines, and the national fund will get 60 and 70 percent, respectively.

The law expressly prohibits the import of waste and hazardous substances, a list of which will be approved by the minister of the environment. It is also prohibited to use equipment and technologies which pose a risk of inadmissible environmental pollution.

Assessment of Brussels Talks on Dam Varies

AU0212133092 Prague CTK in English 1637 GMT
28 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 28 (CTK)—Julius Binder, director of "Vodohospodarska Vystavba" enterprise, which has been building the Gabčíkovo hydroproject on the Danube, today said that the Friday [27 November] talks on the Czechoslovak-Hungarian dispute over the project in Brussels produced no breakthrough.

In Brussels, representatives of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the European Community (EC) agreed to prepare within a fortnight proposals for a water regime to be applied at Gabčíkovo.

Binder told the Slovak news agency TA SR that the commission of experts from the EC and the two countries, which had been studying the Gabčíkovo project, was not discussed on Friday. He explained this saying that the Hungarian side wants nothing but liquidation of the project.

Binder thinks that the Hungarian side feels no inhibitions and that it will use anything that can be presented as Slovakia's irresponsibility.

He stressed that at the October 28 talks with the EC and Hungary in London, the latter pledged not to escalate the Gabčíkovo issue. But it has not met its promises and has been slandering Slovakia in many world mass media, he added.

While the Hungarians follow a united line at all talks, the fact that Czechoslovakia is bound for split is evident in the conduct of the Czechoslovak side, Binder said.

Its (the delegation's) Czech part protects its interests or thinks that it protects them. Part of our delegation was incessantly persuading us that we must reach agreement with the Hungarians because otherwise Europe and the world will not recognize us (after the split of Czechoslovakia—ed.), Binder said.

In an interview with CTK, Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Zdenko Pirek said marked progress was made in Brussels. It should help calm down emotions around Gabčíkovo and facilitate finding a rational solution to key questions of the hydroproject in the near future. Experts in Brussels said that what was attained at the talks is agreement on abandoning extreme stands on both the Czechoslovak and Hungarian sides.

Actually this means that Hungary has in silence quit its idea of bringing down the Gabčíkovo dam and Czechoslovakia no longer insists on the complex completion of the project also on the Hungarian territory, that is damming the river at Dunakiliti.

The dispute is still to be comprehensively judged by The Hague-based International Court of Justice. Czechoslovakia has confirmed that it is interested in working out a special agreement to which questions The Hague court should seek replies.

The Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros water works started to be built jointly by Czechoslovakia and Hungary in 1978. In 1989, Hungary unilaterally halted work on its part of the project at Nagymaros citing environmental reasons. In May 1992 Hungary rescinded its 1977 agreement while Czechoslovakia went ahead with its part at Gabčíkovo.

Following the damming of the Danube, against which Hungary resolutely protested, first electricity was produced at the Gabčíkovo hydroelectric plant October 26 and navigation in a new canal started November 10.

Hungarian Interpretation Challenged

AU0212133192 Prague CTK in English 2122 GMT
29 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 29 (CTK)—Dominik Kocinger, the Czechoslovak and Slovak Governments' commissioner for Gabčíkovo, called mystification today's claim by Hungary that all parties to the Brussels talks understood that the Danube's damming at Cunovo was irresponsible and inexpertly carried out.

In an interview with the Slovak news agency TA SR, Kocinger said that though all structures have not yet been completed at Gabčíkovo, the recent exceptionally fast growth of flood waters was harnessed. This means that the structures are not of a poor quality as claimed, he stressed.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today, Hungary says that it still insists on the removal of the structures built within the temporary "C" variant. The statement also says that during the talks in Brussels between the European Community (EC), Czechoslovakia, and Hungary earlier this month, Hungary did not abandon its demand for the removal and that it will not do so in future either.

I recommend to the Hungarian side to decide as quickly as possible to join us in adjusting the old bed of the Danube, Kocinger said. He added that before the spring vegetation period, it is necessary to ensure optimal conditions for ecosystems. This has also been urgently recommended by experts from the European Community commission.

Mikulas Pakha, deputy director general of the Hydrostav enterprise which is participating in the construction of Gabčíkovo, told TA SR that thanks to the project, the inhabitants of adjacent areas did not even know that there was a threat of flood several days ago.

The "C" variant, that is completion of the Gabčíkovo dam, was chosen by Czechoslovakia after Hungary in 1989 stopped work, citing environmental reasons, on its side of the joint Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros hydroproject which started to be built in 1978. Gabčíkovo started to generate electricity on October 26.

Details of Federal Assembly's Joint Session

LD0212145092 Prague CTK in English 1404 GMT
2 Dec 92

[Text] The joint session of the Federal Assembly today passed laws on a system of securities trading, on dissolving the Federal Fund for Market Regulation in Agriculture, and on reserves for determining the basis of the income tax. The law on securities trading, together with the commercial code, laws on bonds, on securities exchange, and on investment firms and investment funds, should form a legislative framework for effective functioning of the financial market.

In connection with the conversion of former state companies into joint stock companies within the framework of the privatisation process, the situation existing to date will change fundamentally in the course of this and next year. Now only four securities issues are traded on the provisional secondary market organised by the Czechoslovak State Bank. The combined face value of the four securities issues is nearly 4,000 million crowns (133 million USD [U.S. dollars]).

In coming months there should exist nearly 3,000 corporations. The face value of their stocks will hover around one million million crowns (33,333 million USD) and the number of stock owners could reach as high as 9 million individuals. An increase in the number of state bond issues should give a significant impulse to the development of the financial market.

The law on the Federal Fund for Market Regulation will dissolve the fund as of December 31, 1992, and transfer regulation of the market to the operations of the State Fund for Market Regulation of the Czech and Slovak Republics, respectively. The stocks of purchased surplus agricultural and food products will revert to the possession of the Czech and Slovak Republics according to where they were produced.

The Federal Assembly also passed a customs law. It is based on the prepared customs code of the European Community (EC), which should take effect January 1, 1994, as well as on the relevant EC regulations on individual customs areas, Federal Minister of Finance Jan Klak told legislators when submitting the bill.

Czechoslovakia's existing customs law from 1975 still did not comply with EC standards after three revisions. In view of the fact that any further kind of amendment would be merely a partial and temporary solution, the customs law passed today sets a completely new standard.

Among other things, the law defines the state territory of Czechoslovakia as a unified customs territory which is divided into border and internal customs zones. The law deepens border customs zones from the current 15

kilometres to 25 kilometres from the state border and creates new border zones within a radius of 25 kilometres from customs airports.

Communities located within border zones will also become part of the zone. In such communities, customs organs will have increased legal authority to control individuals, goods and means of transport as a way to protect against smuggling and the sale of smuggled goods on street stalls and markets. The customs law becomes effective January 1, 1993.

The Federal Assembly passed today a law which dissolves the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and fixes the method of settling property and other rights. The law dissolves the academy as of December 31, 1992, and on that date transfers moveable and immovable property owned by the Czechoslovak Federation and used for the operation of the academy on the territory of the Czech and Slovak Republics to organisations determined by laws passed by the respective national parliaments.

The settlement of the rights and obligations of the academy which cannot be divided according to the territorial principle (in which items are apportioned to the republic on whose territory they exist) will be left to a future bilateral agreement between the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

The Federal Assembly also passed a law dissolving Czechoslovak Radio, Czechoslovak Television, and the Czechoslovak News Agency as of the end of the Federation on December 31, 1992.

Customs Accord Signed Between Slovakia, Croatia

LD0212224092 Bratislava Slovak 1 Television Network
in Slovak 1800 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Branko Miksa, minister of tourism and trade of the Republic of Croatia, and Ludovit Cernak, Slovak Republic minister of economy, signed a general agreement on trade between the two republics on 2 December. The general agreement is aimed, among other things, at a customs union and free trade between Croatia and Slovakia. Specific contracts will be signed in the near future.

Czech Government Submits Independence Decree

LD0212220692 Prague CTK in English 1741 GMT
2 Dec 92

[Text] Prague, Dec 2 (CTK)—The Czech Government has sent the Czech parliament a draft declaration of sovereignty and independence in which the Czech Republic declares itself a successor state following Czechoslovakia's division.

The proclamation, which is to be addressed to governments and international organisations around the world, also outlines the fundamental principles of the Czech

Republic's domestic and foreign policies, according to Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus.

Klaus, speaking at a press conference today, also announced that the Czech Government had formulated replies to all nine demands made by miners who gathered in Prague a few weeks ago. He said that 2,800 million crowns (100 million USD [U.S. dollars]) had been set aside in the state budget this year for the clean-up of environmental damage, compensation to miners who are being laid-off and traditional guaranteed free coal deliveries to mine employees.

This amount will be gradually decreased over the next three years by approximately 400 million crowns a year (14 million USD).

Strasky on Cabinet Talks on Slovak Ukraine Project

LD0212232792 Prague CTK in English 1951 GMT
2 Dec 92

[Text] Prague, Dec 2 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Premier Jan Strasky today said a decision allowing the East Slovak iron works (VSZ) in Kosice to take over Czechoslovakia's rights and obligations in the construction of an ore dressing plant at Krivoi Rog, Ukraine, is not a final one.

At a press conference following a federal cabinet session, Strasky said the cabinet only took note of a ruling by the Czechoslovak Economics Ministry after VSZ won ownership of Czechoslovakia's rights and obligations in the project in a competition. The cabinet asked the federal economics and finance ministers to present a draft agreement, which the cabinet will consider before its final decision.

Czechoslovakia's rights and obligations in the project, according to a 1986 Czechoslovak-Soviet agreement, amount at present to 10,500 million crowns (about 358,000 USD [U.S. dollars]).

Most former COMECON member states which participated in the project withdrew from it after political changes in these countries at the end of the 1980's, and its construction has thus slowed down considerably. Ukraine committed itself to supplying Czechoslovakia with 17 million tonnes of iron ore pellets, needed by VSZ and a number of other enterprises, within ten years of the third quarter of 1993 in exchange for Czecho-Slovakia's continued participation in the project.

Since Czechoslovak investments in the project were credited by banks which now want them paid back, these credits must be divided in view of Czechoslovakia's split into two independent republics in January.

HZDS Opposes Proposal To Set Up Slovak Senate

AU0212133792 Prague CTK in English 1917 GMT
28 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 28 (CTK)—The Council of the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) today rejected the proposal to set up Senate as a second chamber of the Slovak parliament whose members would be deputies to the federal parliament elected in Slovakia, the Council's Chairman Rudolf Filkus told CTK.

The proposal to transfer the deputies to the federal parliament, which will cease to exist as of January 1, 1993, together with the Czechoslovak Federation, was submitted by Roman Zelenay. Zelenay is chairman of the House of Nations of the federal parliament.

The HZDS Council set up a five-member commission to draft by December 5 a law on the incorporation of federal legislators into the Slovak parliament. In the 300-seat federal parliament there are 126 deputies elected in Slovakia. The Council recommended that an HZDS Assembly be held earlier than in March as planned. Filkus justified this by the changing political structure and newly emerging problems linked to the end of the federation and establishment of an independent Slovak Republic.

The Council took note of the resignation of Frantisek Gaulieder from the post of HZDS Council deputy chairman.

Slovak, Hungarian Ruling Parties Discuss Relations

AU0212134092 Prague CTK in English 1840 GMT
28 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 28 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar said today's talks between his Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and Hungary's ruling Hungarian Democratic Forum in Bratislava were the last attempt to prevent further escalation of nationality tension between the two countries. A strong majority of about 600,000 ethnic Hungarians live in south Slovakia.

The HZDS delegation proposed to solve the Gabcikovo issue on a bilateral level on the basis of a decision by the European Community which has now been mediating between the two countries, and not to lodge the dispute with The Hague-based International Court of Justice, Meciar told journalists.

He said that it was agreed today to limit Slovak-Hungarian disputes to the Gabcikovo question and that some compromise solutions to the problem were proposed. But he did not elaborate.

Gabcikovo is the Czechoslovak part of a hydroproject on the Danube which started to be built together with

Hungary in 1978. In May 1989 Hungary stopped construction work on its side at Nagymaros, citing environmental reasons. In May 1992 it rescinded the 1977 agreement on the works. Czechoslovakia has completed its part at Gabčíkovo which has met with sharp protests from Hungary which wants the issue to be discussed by The Hague court.

Meciar said that the Slovak-Hungarian talks along the party line increase opportunities for reaching agreement after the two governments and parliaments have failed. The Hungarian delegation was led by Gabriela Farkas, deputy chairwoman of the Hungarian Democratic Forum.

Meciar: Economic Recovery 'Long-Term Process'

*AU0212133492 Prague CTK in English 1600 GMT
29 Nov 92*

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 29 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar believes that the Slovak Republic will be admitted to all international organizations together with the Czech Republic and that it will be diplomatically recognized by other states without any problems.

Speaking on Slovak Television, Meciar said the Slovak Republic will have diplomatic missions in all major countries the world over. He appealed to all political forces not to allow disruption, which would impair the functioning of the state. A certain degree of discords between political parties is natural, but it must not be as big as to harm the state, Meciar said.

He accused the Democratic Left Party (SDL, former communists), the second strongest party in Slovakia, of attacking the government at a time when it is under pressure from the Czech Republic and Hungary, and when Slovakia is facing immense social problems.

The SDL of Peter Weiss has been criticizing the Slovak Government's economic policy, and has called on Meciar's Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) to more frequently conduct political consultations with other parties. The HZDS forms a one-party government. In view of the new reality (forthcoming split of Czechoslovakia—ed.), it will be necessary to modify the concept of the government policy so that also other parties can take part in it, Weiss said.

A similar view has been expressed by Vojtech Bugár, chairman of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement (MKDH), a party of the Hungarian ethnic minority, which is represented in both the federal and Slovak parliaments.

Meciar said that the creation of an independent republic as of January 1, 1993, will require changes in the state structures and revival of the economy. This will be a long-term process in which all political forces will have to take part. According to Meciar, a new democratic political system will have to be built within which the question of the position of churches would be resolved,

further civic freedoms would be embedded, and a new law on political parties would be adopted.

[Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 30 November on page 2 carries the following 100-word "ps"-signed report on the Slovak TV debate: "In yesterday's television debate involving representatives of Slovak political parties, Vladimir Meciar stated that Milan Knazko stays in the post of minister of foreign affairs. 'Nothing is going on between us,' the Slovak prime minister said in conjunction with recent reports about a Meciar-Knazko conflict. He admitted, however, that the planned transfer of Movement for a Democratic Slovakia representatives [currently serving in federal bodies] from Prague to Bratislava is arousing certain defensive reactions on the part of those holding leading positions in Slovakia today."]

October Price Statistics Given

*AU0312083892 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in
Czech 25 Nov 92 p 8*

[Federal Statistical Office, Czech Statistical Office, and Slovak Statistical Office report: "Prices Rose Slightly in October Again"]

[Text] Prices in the production sector rose slightly in October, while the rise in price for agricultural products was more pronounced.

In the case of industrial products, the price increase reached 0.8 percent in October (compared to September). In individual sectors, slight price fluctuations in both directions were recorded, though prices of frozen goods, hot-spring [zridlo] production, and tobacco rose by 10.3 percent, due to price increases in the Slovak Republic. The price increase between January and October (compared to December 1991) was 7.1 percent, while prices in the Czech Republic rose 3.1-percent faster than in the Slovak Republic.

Prices for construction work rose by 3 percent in October, and prices for material and products used in the construction industry rose 0.7 percent. Prices for construction work rose 5.9 percent between January and October, and materials and products used in the construction industry 6.2 percent. Here, too, prices rose faster in the Czech Republic than in the Slovak Republic (2.6 and 3.7 percentage points faster).

Prices for agricultural products in October showed an increase of 7.2 percent over a 12-month period, while prices of livestock products rose by 13.7 percent, and produce by 3.9 percent. In the Czech Republic, the price increase in agricultural products in October was faster than in the Slovak Republic, at 7.8 percentage points.

Between January and October this year the average annual price increase for agricultural products was 6.4 percent, including an increase of 6.3 percent for produce,

and 6.7 percent for livestock products. The development was almost the same in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Slovaks Say Pipeline Dispute To Jeopardize Currency Union

AU0312104892

[Editorial Report] Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech, Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech, and Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 27 November publish 200-400 word reports dealing with the latest developments in the Czech-Slovak dispute over the future of the transit gas pipeline.

Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech on 27 November on page 2 carries a 250-word "tb"-signed report on a news conference given by Slovak Minister of Economy Ludovit Cernak in Bratislava on 26 November. The report includes the following passage: "Speaking about the transit gas pipeline, the minister said, among other things: 'We are ready to speak about a supranational company under the condition that Slovak capital will have majority holding, that is, a minimum of 51 percent, that the company's headquarters will be in Bratislava, and that the shares will be distributed proportionately to output, that is, that the Slovak budget will receive from the pipeline exactly the same amount as it would if the pipeline operated as a separate [Slovak] company.'"

Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 27 November on page 2 carries a 200-word "ph"-signed report on an interview given by Marian Tkac, deputy governor of the Czechoslovak State Bank for Slovakia, to LIDOVE NOVINY on the transit gas pipeline issue. The place and date of the interview are not given. According to the report, Tkac told LIDOVE NOVINY that "the division of the transit gas pipeline is the biggest problem that could jeopardize the existence of the monetary union between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. After [the federation's] division, the pipeline could generate for Slovakia \$500 million a year in transit fees, that is, between 13 and 14 billion korunas. If we add this \$500 million to the Slovak foreign exchange reserves, it means that, rather than devaluating the koruna, Slovakia could increase the value of it."

Explaining the importance of the gas pipeline to the Slovak economy, the LIDOVE NOVINY report also notes that "according to Slovak Minister of Economy Ludovit Cernak,

after the country's partition the transit gas pipeline ought to generate about 10 percent of the projected revenues of the Slovak budget."

Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 27 November on page 14 carries a 400-word correspondent's report on the reaction of Miroslav Matousu, director of the Transit Gas Pipeline, to Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's statement of 25 November that "Slovakia has changed its position on the division of the transit gas and oil pipelines" and that it would oppose the Czech proposal for the formation of a supranational company, in which Slovakia would have a 51 percent share. According to the report, Matousu "expressed surprise at Vladimir Meciar's statement, stressing that it runs counter to the current state of negotiations on the compromise solution, at which the Czech and Slovak sides arrived after two years of negotiations." According to MLADA FRONTA DNES, Matousu "warned that the division of the pipeline would cast doubt on the validity of international agreements and the benefits arising from them. The technical provisions for the division of the pipeline would require multibillion expenditure [currency not specified]. One border repumping station alone would cost 700 million korunas. The loss of the accumulation potential of the entire gas pipeline would also limit the commercial scope for the Czech and Slovak gas industries."

Slovak Army To Be 98 Percent Equipped by 15 Dec

AU0112131392 Prague CTK in English 1659 GMT
27 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 27 (CTK)— Czechoslovak Defense Minister Imrich Andrejcak today said that the structure of the future Slovak Defense Ministry and of the Slovak Army command should be similar to that in democratic states.

At a press conference in Bratislava, Andrejcak, who is of Slovak nationality, said that the ministry will be headed by minister, will have five sections (for construction, foreign relations, military-defense intelligence, logistics, and social affairs), and will employ 200 to 250 people.

Colonel Bohumir Gerinec, government commissioner for building Slovakia's Defense Ministry, said that by December 15, 98 percent of all military material to be used by the future Slovak Army will have been moved to Slovakia from the Czech lands. The remaining 42,000 tonnes will be transported to Slovakia by June 1993, Gerinec added.

Official Denies Plan To Protect AWACS*LD0212195792 Budapest MTI in English 1827 GMT
2 Dec 92*

[Text] Budapest, December 2 (MTI)—“Reports that Hungarian fighter aircraft are being kept on special alert to protect the NATO AWACS [airborne warning and control system] aircraft flying in Hungarian air space are completely unfounded,” the press spokesman of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant-Colonel Lajos Erdelyi, said on Wednesday [2 December].

The spokesman was reacting to a report published in the Wednesday issue of the Paris newspaper LE MONDE.

The related communique forwarded to MTI also notes that flights of NATO's reconnaissance aircraft, and their control in Hungary's air space, takes place on the basis of a bilateral agreement and international flight control regulations.

The Hungarian air defence system sees to the control and protection of the air space of the Republic of Hungary in accordance with the regulations in force in peacetime.

Yeltsin Apology for 1956 Intervention Welcomed*LD0212164492 Budapest MTI in English 1510 GMT
2 Dec 92*

[Text] Budapest, December 2 (MTI)—Hungary's Parliament highly appreciates Russian President Boris Yeltsin's apologizing statement about the crackdown by Soviet troops on the 1956 Hungarian revolution, says a document issued by the Hungarian legislature on Wednesday [2 December].

According to the document, a new historical phase has opened in the relations of the two countries, both committed to eliminating the remnants of dictatorship and to building a democratic state.

The document was submitted to parliament by the parties of the governing coalition on Wednesday.

Speaking on behalf of the coalition, Hungarian Democratic Forum parliamentary group leader Imre Konya stressed the historic significance of Yeltsin's speech, made in the Hungarian Parliament late November, and said Russia wants to shape its ties with neighbouring countries in the spirit of equality.

Konya attached great importance to Yeltsin's apology to the Hungarian nation for the Soviet intervention in 1956.

Other speakers also underlined that part of Yeltsin's speech, stressing it opened a new phase in bilateral relations. MPs, however, added that while Yeltsin publicly paid tribute to the 1956 revolution, those in Hungary responsible for the crackdown have yet to account for what they did.

The discussion of the draft statement was completed on Wednesday. Parliament is expected to pass a resolution next week.

Figures Show Import-Export Balance Improving*AU0212131092 Budapest MTI in English 1647 GMT
30 Nov 92*

[Text] Budapest, 30 November (MTI)—A \$1.2 billion improvement in Hungary's foreign trade balance leaves the deficit after the first 10 months of 1992 at only \$433 million, International Trade Secretary Lajos Berenyi reported while giving the current state of talks between Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland on coordinating goods lists to establish free trade.

Coal, steel, and textiles remain the major sticking points.

Over the last 10 months, Hungary's exports have grown by 12 percent, or \$8.5 billion, a 6-percent growth in real value.

Imports, at \$8.9 billion, have dropped by 3 percent against the same period last year, an 8 to 10-percent drop in real value.

Fifty percent of Hungarian exports went to the European Community, 22.5 percent to former socialist countries, 15 percent to European Free Trade Association [EFTA] countries, and 5 percent to developing countries. Of the imported goods, 41 percent came from the EC, 26 percent from the former socialist countries, 21 from the EFTA states, while the share of developing countries in Hungary's imports was 4 percent.

Berenyi had great hopes for a Visegrad Group free trade deal.

Young Democrat Views Party Relationships*AU0312101892 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP
in Hungarian 28 Nov 92 p 11*

[Interview with Viktor Orban, parliamentary faction leader of the Federation of Young Democrats, by Dezso Pinter; place and date not given: "It Is Impossible To Win Elections Here in a Victory March"]

[Excerpts] "Everything that is said by the government as a criticism of the previous regime strengthens the position of [MSZP Chairman] Gyula Horn and of the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP]," Viktor Orban told MAGYAR HIRLAP. According to him, "in any West European country, the strengthening of the MSZP would more likely create anxiety than joy." The Democratic Charter is a Trojan horse of cooperation between the MSZP and the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], and "some people also keep trying to push the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] into the political concept called opposition unity." Based on the events of the past two years, the FIDESZ could most readily form a government alliance with the SZDSZ. Orban expects the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] to fall apart after

suffering election defeat [in 1994]. "It is possible that the FIDESZ will be able to work together very well with some of the parties that will replace the MDF." According to Orban, "the failure of the program presentation of Imre Pozsgay's party attempt, and the lack of interest surrounding the National Democratic Alliance [NDSZ] are the most visible proof of how difficult it is to found a party outside parliament today." Orban found many irritating things in the launching of the Republic Party led by Janos Palotas, such as the party chairman's occasionally contradictory parliamentary motions "whose goal was nothing but popularity." Former Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth must be aware that it is impossible to win elections here in a triumphal march. "One does not even have to step in the mud to become covered in mud from head to foot." [passage omitted]

[Pinter] In the crisis that arose in the wake of the Bos water barrage construction and the diversion of the Danube, you publicly promised to support the government. This attitude does not have many precedents. What was the reason for your decision this time?

[Orban] [passage omitted] We had to turn against the government's position in the case of the [former] Croatian arms delivery scandal, but the situation is different in the case of Bos-Nagymaros. I would have many objections against the government's steps in this matter, too, but the time is not right for criticism. Let us not deceive ourselves, the country is in a dire situation and we must help the government to get Hungary out of it in the best way, and with the fewest sacrifices. Once we are over the conflict, we will naturally have to examine the current and the former governments' responsibility. If it turns out that we have to pay large sums, in parliament we will examine to what extent the various previous governments were responsible.

[Pinter] Would this be the preparations for some kind of provision of justice?

[Orban] I do not like the expression provision of justice or the politicians who think that it is their vocation to create justice in politics. Other professions and methods are suited for this. At the same time, I am starting to get fed up with the inability of the present government to make clear where its responsibility begins for the current situation of this country and what the responsibility is of former governments. The present government has escaped into ideological anticommunism instead of clearly telling the country: Look, this is how we inherited things and do not blame us for things we have not done. For example, it is unjust to hold the Antall government responsible for the high unemployment because it was the so-called socialist government of the past and not this government that planted heavy industry in the country's crisis regions and we have to remedy this inheritance. Anything that is said by this government as a criticism of the former regime is useful for Gyula Horn and the MSZP. The more the unpopular Antall government criticizes the former regime, the more popular the MSZP becomes. All I want is that, if we have to pay for

the Bos issue, then I as a parliamentary deputy should not be made responsible, but should be able to say what was spoiled by whom and when.

[Pinter] You never miss an opportunity to speak against the fellow opposition MSZP. The attitude of other parties is much more differentiated in this respect, and their statements are more changeable, sometimes sharper, sometimes milder, and sometimes more ambiguous. You always say the same thing. Have your original views been supported by your experiences to this extent?

[Orban] We have already made some gestures toward the MSZP. We have often said that we wanted the MSZP to become a modern social democratic party as soon as possible. The FIDESZ forms its view on the MSZP on the basis of the similarities and differences in the party programs rather than on the basis of the past. The MSZP's policies changed considerably between the beginning of 1992 and May 1992. This is shown by the fact that, in May 1992, they accepted a program consisting of a collection of empty promises. Cooperation between the FIDESZ and the MSZP is made difficult much more by the differences in the current programs than by the past. Some parties do already work together with the MSZP or presumably will do so. This cannot be excluded in the case of the FIDESZ, either, but the chances are small. [passage omitted]

[Pinter] The prime minister made it very clear before the country that he considers the MSZP to be a dangerous political opponent until the next elections. At the same time, there are some cautious hints—perhaps with the intent to deceive—that cooperation may be possible between the MDF and the MSZP. How much do you know about this? What are your views on the possible links between the MSZP and the SZDSZ?

[Orban] The possibility of MDF and MSZP cooperation can be raised in certain quarters because the economic programs of the two parties are not very different from each other. Both of them are full of statist elements. In the West, the economic policy implemented by the MDF is called left wing and socialist, rather than conservative and Christian. State intervention in the economy is very great, which is doubtlessly close to the suggestions made in the MSZP's program. If vast ideological differences did not exist and the two parties had not accumulated so much hatred against each other over the past two years, then the MSZP and the MDF would easily come to an understanding on economic policy. Cooperation between the SZDSZ and the MSZP is not on the level of politicians but among the intellectuals standing behind the two parties. This is nothing other than the charter policy. The Democratic Charter is good and dangerous, both at the same time. It is good because there is a need for a truly civilian—not party-political—organization that can emerge in moments critical for democracy and mobilize the masses. At the same time, we have to see that, when a large movement emerges, certain parties feel an irresistible desire to jump to the lead of the allegedly non-party movement. [passage omitted]

[Pinter] I wonder if you are aware of the views that say the FIDESZ is not seeking political allies at the moment because it is massively exaggerating the size of its popular support. Others think that you will wait until the last moment before deciding on your political sympathies for tactical reasons—and such sympathies are solely determined by the chances of acquiring a position in a government coalition of any constitution. The supporters of this view refer to the ideological neutrality of the FIDESZ.

[Orban] [passage omitted] After the elections, we want to make a coalition agreement that will be based on the program of the future coalition partners. The example of the present coalition is frightening, because they formed an alliance well before the elections on an ideological basis, rather than doing this after the elections on the basis of party programs. Today, the country is suffering because, in 1990, the government was formed on the basis of obsolete ideological considerations rather than on the similarity of the programs. In 1990, the programs of the MDF, SZDSZ, and the FIDESZ were much closer to each other than the programs of the MDF and the Independent Smallholders Party. Indeed the FIDESZ is not rushing to form a coalition, but my current view is that, on the basis of the programs and the events of the past two years, it would be easiest to form a government alliance with the SZDSZ. We are quite certain that the MDF will not win the next elections. In this case, the MDF will probably fall apart. At the moment, the

heterogeneous, multicolored, and discordant group of the MDF is only held together by the fact that it has to govern. The question is into what elements the MDF will be divided after the elections. It is possible that the MDF will be replaced by some parties with whom the FIDESZ can work together very well. The MDF also has a tendency and some personalities with which and with whom the FIDESZ can agree without any problems. [passage omitted]

[Pinter] In 1994, how much competition will the political parties provide which are starting on a completely new basis?

[Orban] The failure of Imre Pozsgay's party attempt and the lack of interest that surrounds the NDSZ are the most visible proof of how difficult it is today to form a party outside parliament and to make it popular. I find many irritating things in the launching of the Republic Party led by Janos Palotas. As is shown by the statements of its leaders, among other things, this party starts from the premise that its existence is justified because the government coalition has to be criticized and the opposition is not united. [passage omitted] In spite of this, it is still true that our cooperation with the Republic Party will be decided by the many experiences gained from its program and its actions, and I do not wish to form relations with Janos Palotas on an emotional basis. [passage omitted]

Suchocka Addresses Peasant Group After Bomb Scare

LD0212205792 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1500 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] A meeting between Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and the Polish Peasant Party-Peasant Alliance Supreme Council was delayed by 40 minutes as her bodyguards had to check information that a bomb had been placed in the party headquarters. The alarm turned out to be false.

During the meeting the prime minister said that the government coalition from the outset had been created by groupings who felt themselves to be responsible for Poland, including the Polish Peasant Party-Peasant Alliance. She announced that it will soon be possible to implement opportunities for the development of the countryside and agriculture program which has been adopted.

[Begin Suchocka recording] We are on the eve of preparing and adopting by Council of Ministers committees, and afterwards by the Council of Ministers itself, separate laws that are to ensure the implementation of opportunities for the countryside and agriculture program. You know very well that it will not happen without any debate or without any controversy [words indistinct] because all these programs give rise to doubts that are not only associated with the program for the countryside and agriculture. However, the fundamental ideas, the fundamental briefs of that program and the assumptions we want to achieve in this general program of opportunities for the countryside and agriculture have been (?embodied in laws) that will be prepared, and have to be in accord with all these assumptions, these basic principles. [end recording]

First Reading of Abortion Bill Postponed

LD0212235292 Warsaw PAP in English 2102 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 2—A walk-out on Wednesday [2 December] by around a dozen members of the Sejm (lower house of parliament) legislative and extraordinary committees which had earlier worked on the draft law on the protection of the unborn child again prevented the draft resolution calling for a referendum on the criminalisation of abortion from proceeding to its first reading.

This was the third time that the committees have failed to reach a quorum, thus preventing the proceedings from reaching any conclusions. Teresa Liszcz, chair of the Sejm Legislative Committee, was one of those who participated in the walk-out. The aim of the deputies who walked out was to stress their belief that the first reading should only take place in the Sejm, and not in committee. Teresa Liszcz added that—in accordance with the intention of Sejm regulations—the first reading of a resolution is not possible without the presence of its sponsors.

Barbara Labuda of the Democratic Union (UD), on behalf of 120 parliamentary signatories of the Sejm resolution calling for the referendum, said that the committees were the wrong place for the resolution to be discussed. "The referendum issue should come to the Sejm for discussion," she said, adding that "This is a basic matter, linked to democracy, to decide not only the objectives we set ourselves, but also the paths by which we achieve them." Labuda and her co-signatories reject the opinion of the Sejm Presidium that the two committees, set up to examine the draft law on abortion, are also empowered to consider the resolution calling for a referendum.

However, Jan Lopuzanski of the Christian National Union (ZChN), sponsors of the abortion legislation, said that the first reading of the referendum resolution should take place in the committees, and that the Sejm Presidium had the right to interpret Sejm regulations in this way. "The opposition of a single deputy should not be allowed to prevent the normal work of state institutions," he said.

Coal Mining Officials Outline Future Plans, Role

LD0212233592 Warsaw PAP in English 2024 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 2—As of January 1, 1993 Polish coal mines will be grouped into 7 units, holding companies or concerns, as they are not able to survive under the present organizational system. Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Andrzej Lipko said during a press conference in Warsaw Wednesday [2 December].

According to head of the State Coal Mining Agency (PAWK) Przemyslaw Gruca, the restructuring programme of the Polish coal mining, to be completed by 2005, will cost 50-60 trillion zlotys (some 3.2-3.9 billion dollars). The project is to be financed by collieries and with various loans including one from the World Bank. The extraction is to remain at the present level of 135 million tonnes of coal per year till 2010 but the productivity is expected to double after the reduction of workforce by more than a half. No mass lay-offs have taken place in this sector so far, Gruca said.

Also at the conference, the Ministry of Industry and Trade presented its raw-material policy guidelines referring to ventures related to the exploration and extraction of natural resources. According to Industry Minister Wacław Niewiarowski the policy will be targeted on saving raw materials and pro-ecological. "Poland must stop playing the role of Europe's raw materials basin", said Niewiarowski predicting a cut in exports of natural resources.

Serbia Reportedly Seizes Cargo Ships 28 Nov*AU0212212092 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Our reporter at the Romanian Foreign Ministry has learned that the tugboat Dragasani, sailing with six Romanian barges transporting sugar and rolled metal products back from Germany, were stopped by Serbian authorities on 28 November, 1,400 km into the Serbian waters of the Danube.

Asked to comment briefly on that issue, Foreign Ministry spokesman Traian Chebeleu, state secretary of the Romanian Foreign Ministry, said that the exact reasons behind the action of the Serbian authorities are not yet known. Apparently, we are dealing with retaliatory measures due to the fact that Romanian [Danube] river authorities stopped two Serb ships that were transporting gasoline and other oil products to Yugoslavia via Bulgaria. Through its embassy in Belgrade, Romania has requested information about what has happened, Chebeleu said, adding that the Serbian authorities have so far not offered any official explanation. As is well known, according to the UN Charter, it is Romania's duty to observe the embargo imposed by the UN Security Council.

Our reporter has found out that the two Serb vessels—the cargo ships Karlovac and Kumanovo—were stopped respectively at Galati on 27 November and today after it was established that they had been loaded in Ukraine with oil products.

If the theory concerning the detention of the Romanian ships as a retaliatory measure is confirmed, Romania is determined to notify the UN Security Council and the CSCE, which monitor compliance with the embargo imposed on Yugoslavia, Chebeleu stressed.

Ships Seized as Retaliation*AU0312130492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 3 Dec 92*

[Text] The Yugoslav Federal Ministry of Transportation and the Serbian Ministry of Transport have confirmed that the seizure of the Romanian tugboat Dragasani and of six barges represents a retaliatory measure for the seizure of Serbian ships by the Romanian Danube river authorities who—according to UN Security Council Resolution Number 787—have applied the embargo imposed on Yugoslavia. Gabriel Ionescu, our reporter at the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry, has learned.

The Romanian side considers that such measures are unacceptable for our country. Mr. Traian Chebeleu, state secretary of the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry, told our reporter that the Romanian charge d'affaires accredited in Belgrade was instructed to call again on the Yugoslav Foreign Affairs Ministry and insist that the arbitrarily seized Romanian ships be immediately released. Otherwise, Romania reserves the right to notify international bodies. Mr. Traian Chebeleu also pointed

out that such artificially constructed tensions do not serve Romanian-Yugoslav bilateral relations and that Romania does not wish—under any circumstances—to expand or amplify those tensions.

Hungary To Fly Under 'Open Skies' Accord*AU0212130892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1133 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 2/12/1992—Based on an "Open Skies" Agreement between the Governments of Romania and Hungary, signed in Bucharest on 11 May 1991 and in force starting 27 February 1992, the Hungarian party will make an observation flight between December 2-4.

It will be the first of this kind since the enforcement of the said agreement. An aircraft of the Hungarian Army carrying French photo equipment will be used for the operation. The same kind of equipment is mounted on an aircraft of the Romanian Army. The Hungarian aircraft team will be accompanied by Romanian military experts, as is stipulated in the agreement. As part of the said agreement, the Romanian party is going to have a similar flight in Hungary on a date to be announced 48 hours before, informs the Romanian Ministry of National Defence.

Spokesman Views 'Open Sky' Treaty*AU0312110192 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1859 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 2/12/1992—During the Foreign Ministry's weekly news conference of Wednesday, December 2, Mr. Traian Chebeleu, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry of Romania, spoke about the observation flight a Hungarian crew would do over Romania on the same day, in keeping with the Romanian-Hungarian open sky treaty.

In that context, Mr. Chebeleu said: "Beyond its significance on the bilateral plane, this action is a useful experience, during the very period when the states that signed the multilateral treaty for an open sky from Vancouver to Vladivostok are in the process of ratification of that important international juridical instrument."

Mr. Chebeleu also pointed out that it was a real premiere, as this was the first observation flight to be done in keeping with an international agreement for an open sky; so far both the two states and the other states have done only experimental flights of the kind.

As for the general evolution of the Romanian-Hungarian relations, Mr. Traian Chebeleu stated that their improvement or normalization was a permanent concern of the Romanian Government that favors in principle further negotiations on the general political treaty between Romania and Hungary.

Secretary of State Holds Talks in Kiev, Cernauti

AU0212091692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1747 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 1/12/1992—"The Ukraine and Romania can be a factor of stability in this part of the continent," Constantin Ene, secretary of state at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated to a BASA agency (Moldova) correspondent, while in Cernauti [Chernovtsy].

The issue of Moldova's eastern districts lay at the core of the talks. The Romanian side expressed its apprehension for the course taken by the latest developments, which affect the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity and informed his hosts of Romania's preoccupation for a revigoration of the four-party mechanism with a view to the peaceful solving of the conflict.

At his meetings with the Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and with the Committee of Nationalities, State Secretary Ene said the existing possibilities were examined of enabling the free circulation of persons especially from the areas bordering Romania.

Relative to the Romanians in the regions of Cernauti and Odessa, Constantin Ene stated that their problems formed one of the central points of the talks. "We approached the aspect of easier contacts of Romanians in those areas with their relatives in Romania, of creating conditions for them to maintain their cultural identity as part of the Romanian spirit, the possibilities to improve conditions for the learning of the Romanian language, the staffing of schools with teachers, of churches with priests, we tackled the condition of the cultural historical monuments." Commenting the position of the Ukraine, the Romanian diplomat said he "noticed a certain openness on the part of the Ukrainians."

The purpose of his visit to Kiev was to detect the course the relations between the two countries could be directed to. Romania hopes to open a consulate in Cernauti and one in Odessa and will soon start negotiations, the secretary of state said, on several accords among which, hopefully, on a treaty of good neighbourliness and cooperation.

Vacaroiu Discusses Reform Issues

AU0212133292 Bucharest CURIERUL NATIONAL in Romanian 26 Nov 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu by Corina Cretu and Oprea Georgescu on 24 November; place not given: "The Stagnation of Reform Would Be a Tragedy"]

[Text] Despite his overloaded program, something that is natural at a time when the government is installed and especially at the beginning of the winter, the prime minister of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, was kind

enough to receive us on the afternoon of 24 November to have the following talk—on what we believe to be topical subjects.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Mr. Prime Minister, in Romania, like in all the other countries in East Europe, the essential question is the progress of the reform process. We understand that at this point, namely the beginning of its mandate, the government is preparing a study on the current stage of the reform process. In this incipient stage, could you name us a few of the essential points of this study?

[Vacaroiu] Sure. Each minister, each sector under the government's jurisdiction is duty-bound to make, in a relatively short time, a study on what has been achieved in the past two and a half years. I am talking about a summary of areas including laws that were issued, of those laws, which of them have been applied, what causes have generated negative effects—if any—what correlations there are within the law, what are the noncorrelations of the respective law compared with other laws, if there are any corrections to be suggested for such laws, and of course, finally, arranging these proposals in chronological order according to their importance. The Council for Strategy and Reform will draw up this summary study; it will come up with material that is going to form the foundation of the government's strategic program for the coming four-year period. At the same time, more than 200 draft bills have been submitted to parliament. However, a major part of them were already returned two days ago to be reexamined by the ministers and, according to importance and priority, to say whether certain corrections are necessary and whether they are in keeping with our strategy, and so forth. Then we will submit them again to parliament. This is a first step in this period.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] In your opinion, what are the draft bills of priority at this time?

[Vacaroiu] You know, we have numerous priorities. If we talk about education, then the education law is of priority; if we talk about science, then it is the law of science that is of priority; if we talk about the police, then the law of public order is of priority. In any case, a brief inventory demonstrates that in the coming four years some 300-350 laws have to be drafted. There are a few priority sectors that lack basic laws of operation. But the priority of priorities is the problem of the ordinances issued by the former government that have not yet been validated by parliament, which has already been asked to discuss and to make a decision on them.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Thus everything that has been done so far is being continued, or do you feel the need for certain changes in some areas? Do you have the feeling that you lack the necessary instruments for a normal governing?

[Vacaroiu] First, we do not interrupt what has been done. Everything is being done while things are moving; the reform does not stop, it continues. We just want to

make corrections where needed, because stagnation would be a tragedy. I want to give you an example: There are a few laws that were endorsed a long time ago; however, the rate of applying them leaves a great deal to be desired. There are multiple, objective, and subjective reasons for this. Let us take for instance the law referring to the issuance of ownership titles for farmers. Only approximately 240,000 of families have received such titles and thus—if I am not mistaken—there are a few million outstanding—in excess of 2 million. Something has happened in this respect, and therefore the mechanism has to be reexamined, and the process has to start all over again. Granting ownerships is nothing to joke about anywhere in the world; registration operations require particular conditions: precise measurements, determining the neighbors, and so forth. These are surely the objective factors that make progress difficult. Then there are the subjective factors linked to people who delay things or are dealing with other things, or try all sorts of maneuvers to win. Thus a serious study is needed to give an impetus to this process. For, if we do not make headway in agriculture, problems will become more serious. It is a serious problem that hard currency resources are being used in Romania for imports of foodstuffs, especially wheat. I hope we will be able to stop this practice.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] You have quite often used the phrase "state control," which your predecessors tried to avoid. How do you think you will be able to carry out this control, without being accused of centralism, giving directions, and so forth? Up to what point does this mean control, and how are you going to avoid its being taken for state monopoly?

[Vacaroiu] We should not shun this phrase—the monopoly exists.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] We meant in the sense of hampering free initiative...

[Vacaroiu] By no means. Each time I was referring mainly to state-owned companies and corporations. The social capital belongs to the state, and it represents nothing but the public wealth. As everywhere in the world where there is an owner, he has to know what is happening with the property he is managing. I am not referring to economic freedom, which fully exists, but to the control over the management of the state capital, which means routine control over the utilization of funds to avoid embezzlement and their use for personal purposes. This is the control I was talking about. Just think of the last episode with J.R. [from the "Dallas" television series] and how, on the basis of a power of attorney, funds were taken out of the company so that no one else could take it over. This is what—if you will—the owner's control over the management means. As I have said, we will introduce a management contract with performance criteria that exist throughout the world.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] You have talked about the creation of a Hard Currency Monetary Council. What

will its role be aside from consultations? How do you view the relations between the government—National Bank and Ministry of Finance—and National Bank?

[Vacaroiu] I can tell you that one of the questions that concerns me is this problem—the stability of the exchange rate. As you know, the bank governor is elected by parliament for an eight-year term; the bank is autonomous; there is cooperation between it and the government, but the prime minister cannot decide on the bank governor's duties. This does not mean that there should not be close cooperation; this is what I pursue through this council that will deal with monetary, hard currency, budgetary, and fiscal strategy. Thus, it is a council of specialists that will meet periodically and will examine solutions and possibilities to ensure stability.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] In principle, what will the hard currency policy be? Can we still talk of a hard currency nationalization?

[Vacaroiu] No, in my view, such a problem is not posed. However, there is a nuance in this respect. For example, I do not understand why a number of economic units keep their hard currency in their accounts at this point, while they owe money to suppliers and the state budget. First, this is not loyal, because this is what causes financial bottlenecks with repercussions that are reflected directly, not only in the material production process in general and in the progress of reform, but also in the fact that I am unable to use budget resources for the Army, education, health, and so forth.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] In a month, on 1 January, the Romanian economy will suffer the impact of the introduction of the value-added tax [VAT]. Do you think that it has been prepared to sustain this shock? What impact will it have on trade companies, but also on the life of the man in the street? As far as we understand, in other countries such a measure took preparations of some 5-10 years...

[Vacaroiu] True, this is not a simple mechanism, but since I have dealt directly with this question, I can tell you that we have succeeded in drafting a much more simplified law compared with what exists in the world, namely a law adjusted to the specific conditions in Romania. As you may note, we have introduced a uniform rate—compared with other countries that have three or four, in the area of the VAT, any additional rate expands the whole application process: Registration, pursuit, and cashing of the VAT. Then we were able to make preparations that in other countries would have required tremendous expenses. In each town in our country, we organized training centers for economic units; we already have 2,000 VAT professors who are teaching every week.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] But you were saying that the attendance leaves something to be desired.

[Vacaroiu] Yes. What I am concerned about—because this proves a great deal—is the fact that private companies, even small ones, were interested in attending this course, while those operating with state capital do not attend. Some of them do not attend. However, it has to be said that VAT plays a very important role in the economy of a country, because, aside from VAT, a number of disciplinary measures are taken whose direct effect is to combat fiscal evasion and other tricks.

VAT requires a fiscal codification of all companies. Beginning 1 January, each economic unit will receive a certain fiscal code, an opportunity that permits disclosure of phantom-companies in Romania. This fiscal code will be mentioned in all original documents issued by the given company and will accompany commodities or the service rendered. Thus a bill can be identified at any time. VAT presupposes particular sanctions if it is not observed, and at the same time, it represents a system that eliminates anomalies in the current goods turnover tax, this chain of taxes levied on taxes. There are, of course, certain disadvantages. For instance, at this time there are no resources to process VAT by automatic methods. This would require \$800-\$900 million, and I do not think that Romania—if it were to be postponed one year—would have anywhere to take this money from. Thus we have pros and cons. If by mid-December we find that the minimal conditions for its application do not exist, we will demand that it not be applied. For the time being, the ordinance has been endorsed, but we do not yet know what the reaction of parliament will be, which is supposed to discuss it. I have to tell you that VAT is practiced throughout the Common Market, and we are struggling to join it.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Thus, will it be a good thing for the ordinary citizens?

[Vacaroiu] There is a clear openness; we will immediately know how much this tax is. On the other hand, VAT is one of the commitments made by the Roman and Stolojan governments to the IMF. Of course, the final decision rests with parliament.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Concretely speaking, what will the effect of the introduction of VAT be?

[Vacaroiu] I expect a price hike of 5-6 percent on the average. There will be sectors in which prices will be lower—light industry; where they will be fixed—machine-building; and where they will increase by 10-12 percent—food industry.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] You said that the final decision rests with parliament. What will your reaction be if you are faced with a more general boycott?

[Vacaroiu] A boycott has to be based on arguments we can discuss. I do not believe that anyone in parliament can be accused of ill-faith.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Yet there were 203 votes against you.

[Vacaroiu] I was pleased to note that, nonetheless, part of the opposition backed me. These votes are no particular problem for me, because what I will present will be substantiated and corroborated in the sense of continuing the reform process and not stopping it. No one has favored stopping it. During the government's validation there was, if you will, some reticence of a political nature in connection with making some payments or linked to the fact that some people wanted me to present a strategic program for four years. This would have meant lack of seriousness on my part. Clinton was elected in November, and he has until 20 January to form his government team, settle his structures, and then 100 days will pass until he will draft his government program.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Let us return to economic issues. In your opinion, how will inflation develop? How much will consumption prices grow?

[Vacaroiu] My estimate is approximately 40 percent. It depends on how we, together with the National Bank governor, will be able to ensure a balance, which plays a decisive role in everything we undertake.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] People already say that the new prime minister will raise the dollar rate to 500 lei.

[Vacaroiu] Yes, unfortunately, when people say this they refer to a prime minister who does not concern himself with the currency balance.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Mr. Prime Minister, are you going to try to somehow limit the dictatorship of the single producer? We are asking you this question because the state is the main producer in Romania.

[Vacaroiu] You see, when I talked about those performance criteria that have to be imposed on companies, I was thinking that one of these criteria should be the following: Prices should not exceed world levels. Certainly, to break the monopoly is not an easy affair. There are two ways to do it: either through the emergence of an additional 10 producers alongside the one producer, plus foreign competition, or by you, as the owner, following a certain conduct. For the time being, we—in accordance with the law—have applied the system of monitoring price negotiations where this monopoly exists. Certainly, the main idea is to have market mechanisms everywhere. In any case, directing things toward companies would mean a step backward.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] We understand that you intend to pay greater attention to social security than your predecessors. However, this can be achieved only with an appropriate budget. What do you have in mind to improve the revenues of this budget?

[Vacaroiu] Social protection means a certain correlation between increasing prices and wages or incomes. My main concern will be those social segments that are at the greatest disadvantage. For instance, there are pensioners whose pensions are below the possible standard of living

of a man—5,000 lei or something like that. This, while cheese costs 800 lei and Romanian pressed cheese costs 1,700 lei; and then one also has to pay running costs, electricity bills, which have also increased. Thus this man is going to starve and we have to ensure social protection. We have come up with some solutions, and we will see what can be done after price negotiations. Before beginning these negotiations, we proceeded from a wage indexation of some 67-70 percent compared with price increases. If it turns out that prices have increased much more than initially envisaged, I will apply an additional indexation to maintain this 70-percent level. However, for those segments that are at a disadvantage I will make available additional sources of 80, 90, or even 100 percent—whenever the minimum standard of living is not guaranteed. A thorough study is under way now, and there are talks with the trade unions; these are complicated problems, and of course, there are differences in opinion. We have to seek an appropriate way to solve them.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] Would you please outline the main orientation of your cabinet's foreign policy, especially in the economic area? What are the main markets toward which Romania is turning?

[Vacaroiu] Today I conducted talks on this subject with trade officials and the Ministry of Industry, and these discussions will probably continue. We will create specific market levers to give an impetus to reinvestments and exports. At the same time, special emphasis will be placed on identifying foreign market trends, becoming acquainted with prices, and passing on information to economic units. Unfortunately, we now have to begin reconquering certain markets we have lost. There are entire sectors—with great export opportunities—that have lost big markets not only in former CEMA member countries, but also in the West. Now everyone is specialized in foreign trade just as everyone is specialized in the economy; this is why we have more than 40,000 foreign trade companies, but I do not know whether they have a single specialist who knows how to fill out an export contract or how to negotiate prices. Thus Romanians are competing among themselves in foreign markets, and this is a tragedy.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] What is your opinion about the evolution of the balance of trade given the fact that, as you recently said, aside from salt, Romania is importing all its essential raw materials?

[Vacaroiu] To complete domestic resources—this is the truth. Unfortunately, at this time it is impossible for exports to exceed imports. The latter is almost double compared with exports. Who is able to cover the difference? Are foreign debts a solution anymore? This is a problem that needs consideration.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] What is the maneuvering space the government will leave for trade companies with private or mixed capital in the area of imports and exports? Will the state get the lion's share as it has so far?

We are referring to both financial resources and the lists of products. Will the current export quotas for certain products be preserved?

[Vacaroiu] Economic units have had, have, and will continue to have an extraordinarily big maneuvering space. It would have been a good thing if the state had taken the lion's share, because then we would not be in the current situation. However, we did not arrange it so that economic units could make profits and be able to invest. Just think of what happened in the past, how much was taken from the profits of enterprises and what we take now. There is no discrimination between private, mixed, or state companies in the tax policy, either. Each one has to pay its dues to the budget. We do not favor anyone, although it is true that at this time foreign investors have greater facilities than private ones. In all countries the import-export licenses constitute one of the main instruments of the market economy whereby the appearance of certain products in the market is stimulated and a number of mechanisms are being guided. One can pose the problem of the necessity of these licenses. If you do not mind, without them there is no quality control anymore; all sorts of things enter the country, including toxic waste, and so forth. In Germany 5,000 people are dealing with import-export licenses, and you know how difficult it is for any product to enter the U.S. market, because of the conditions imposed. As far as exports are concerned, the range is much wider. Normally, our licenses are based on a list of quotas referring to high-energy consuming products such as cement, aluminum, and so forth. As for the rest, they are free.

[CURIERUL NATIONAL] In parliament you said "he who laughs last laughs best." Finally, we would like to ask you if now, after your first contacts with reality, you are still optimistic? Do you think you will laugh last?

[Vacaroiu] If I was not optimistic, I would not be here. I am guided by the principle that there are solutions for every problem. We have already found some of the solutions, and we are seeking others. We hope that we will, indeed, laugh last, in four years.

Roman Views SRI Role, Securitate Links

AU0212180392 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 28/29 Nov 92 pp 1, 3

["Exclusive" interview with Petre Roman, president of the National Salvation Front, by Andrei Badin and Bogdan Costea; place and date not given: "If I Was Manipulated, All the Worse for Me"]

[Text] [ROMANIA LIBERA] Mr. Petre Roman, let us first talk about your appointment to the position of chief of the Parliament's Defense Commission. Let us talk about Mr. [Virgil] Magureanu and the institution he is heading [Romanian Intelligence Service—SRI]...

[Roman] As far as I know, and I do not see how it could be otherwise; Mr. Magureanu's appointment was made

on the basis of a decision made before the mandate of the previous parliament started; therefore, he went through a whole parliamentary mandate without being confirmed by the parliament, although this was explicitly required by the electoral law and particularly by the Constitution. This has become more topical after the passing of the SRI law, which explicitly provides for the modality of appointing the SRI director. This is bound to raise huge question marks about the legal functioning of the SRI, under parliamentary control. How did the parliamentary control function? Not even the results of the enquiry commission that dealt with the September [1990] miners' incursion have led to a direct analysis of the SRI activity, regarding the role of that institution. From information I have recently received—and I would like you to write this down—I believe one can draw a positive and important conclusion, namely that a good part of the SRI workers want to come out from under cover. They want to be professionals in the job they are doing. They no longer want to work for political reasons, but rather as professionals, for the state's security, not for various political interests.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Will you do something to normalize this situation, including the official confirmation of the SRI chief?

[Roman] There is no doubt that one cannot continue like that. It is high time to observe legal procedures, something that should be done as soon as possible. We have a government, now it is the turn of other institutions to be set up in accordance with the Constitution and the law. This should be done as soon as possible.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] When you do that, will you raise the question of why that Mr. Magureanu has not been confirmed for two years?

[Roman] I do not have to put this question to Mr. Magureanu because theoretically, he is not responsible for this situation. The country's president should have made a decision in accordance with the law. He did not do it, well, that is his business....

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Does that mean that he violated the law?

[Roman] He must explain why he did not do it. If he says he violated no laws, let him justify his behavior. Let him explain how his behavior does not amount to an infringement of the law. I do not like to start out from a negative premise, as he is so fond of saying.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Do you think that Mr. Magureanu will remain SRI chief?

[Roman] I do not know. As a matter of fact, from a legal viewpoint, this is not the most important point right now. I do not make any forecasts in this respect because I do not know what goes through Mr. Iliescu's head.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] ROMANIA LIBERA recently revealed that the name of Mr. Theodor Melescanu, the

minister of foreign affairs, has been found on some list of Securitate officers before 1989. What is your opinion on that?

[Roman] I thought about it. To a certain extent, it came as a surprise to me. I must say that it was me who brought Mr. Melescanu to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; at that time, he was employed with an international agency in Vienna. I brought him to the ministry on the basis of files that showed that he had worked in the sphere of international relations in Geneva and also studied there; therefore, he was a competent man. At least that was the impression I had of him. At that time, I often asked myself whether he had belonged to the Securitate.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Did you also asked him personally?

[Roman] Of course I asked him. He answered me in the negative. I believe this is the answer he also gave to the parliamentary commission because his credentials were also verified by the Defense Commission. I was not present at the hearing, but I know he was asked that question, and he gave the same answer, that is, that he had not worked with the Securitate. Anyway, his links with the Securitate were natural ones, so to say, by natural meaning his implicit obligations to national security. Therefore, nothing else....

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Still, he was an officer!

[Roman] This is indeed something new, and one must carefully check the meaning of this position of officer.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Do you think that this might damage Romania's image abroad?

[Roman] It is possible that Romania's image in certain countries might be affected by this.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] There are rather many such people in Mr. Vacaroiu's government. Some are former Securitate officers or former nomenklatura members. What is your opinion on that?

[Roman] It does not set well. This should not have happened, and there should be no doubt about that, as in the case of Mr. Melescanu. Assuming that allegations about these individuals are true, I am not in favor of a totally radical and aggressive action against them. It is not suitable. It is obvious that things should be judged individually, on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, it is bad to overlook such things without making any mention of them. Suspicion and questions remain. Even maneuvering room for the respective individual may be affected.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Do you believe that the composition of this government signals an even stronger comeback of the old structures?

[Roman] I am waiting to see more clearly in what direction this government is moving. Then we will know

better. It is one thing to judge the people and another thing altogether to judge their concrete actions.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Do you believe that Mr. Iliescu's visit to Paris was positively assessed?

[Roman] Frankly, the whole visit appeared to me to be a meaningless act, without any substance. I do not quite understand why he made that visit, or what its purpose was, if any.

[ROMANIA LIBERA] At the last news conference of the Democratic National Salvation Front [FDSN], it was announced that some state secretaries and undersecretaries will be changed, wherever necessary, to put in "people who support the government." Moreover, it was said that, wherever necessary, the whole administration will be changed. Do you think this is right?

[Roman] The change of an entire administration does not happen anywhere in a democratic and civilized country. Neither are state secretaries being changed in most countries. The state secretaries, that is the second or third echelons, are not political functions; they are positions that ensure continuity. I believe the whole thing is demagoguery. The idea is the following: "We will change the people who were there until now," even if they were their own people, as many of them were! How we struggled against those structures! They are saying it now to give the impression that things were bad because of the people in office. This consciously maintained ambiguity is a demagogic attitude, typical of communism. The reality is that we fought with these structures and bureaucracy. I am curious to see whom they will remove in the end!

[ROMANIA LIBERA] Do you think that the present parliament is more valuable than the previous one?

[Roman] You see, it is very difficult to judge the quality of the parliamentarians. It is hard to make even a superficial analysis of the situation. What is certain is that extremist political forces have made their way into parliament. This is a reality. This thing in itself cannot be something better, but rather worse...

[ROMANIA LIBERA] In the book you have recently launched in Paris, you write that at a certain point during your tenure as prime minister you were being manipulated by Mr. Iliescu...

[Roman] This statement is slightly exaggerated. I did not say I was manipulated but rather that I was simply kept outside certain political ploys. I was not privy to certain things going on behind the political scenes. This cannot be termed manipulation. If I was manipulated, all the worse for me. In my book I attempt to explain why I have tried for so long to believe that I am not party to any political games being played behind the scenes and that I am not the object of these ploys; because there was certainly a struggle going on between two political trends: the reformist and the conservative one. In the last instance, this became obvious in the parliament, where

Messrs. [Alexandru] Barladeanu and [Dan] Martian tried to activate forces that aimed at blocking the activity of the government led by me....

[ROMANIA LIBERA] When did you become aware of these games behind the scenes?

[Roman] Well, why not read the book? Do not ask me to sum up here in a few words what I have written about on several scores of pages. If you like, we can talk some more, on another occasion, about that book. I have tried my hand at writing; let us see how successful that attempt was. Anyway, I do not want to treat this endeavor as a "trifle..."

Statistics Board Publishes Economic Figures

AU0212090092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
0839 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 2/12/1992—Inflation stood at 9.6 per cent in October as against 10.1 per cent in September, when state subsidies were further cut, say ECONOMISTUL citing the National Board for Statistics. Over January-October 1992, the average rate of inflation was of 8.8 per cent and prices rose 10.4 times on October 1990.

The industrial output increased in October by 2.6 per cent as against September 1990, but it was by 23.5 per cent lower than in October 1991. Work productivity was 3.5 per cent higher in October 1992 than in the previous month and 13 per cent lower than in October last year.

As for foreign trade, after three months in which export figures were higher than import ones, the trade balance was negative in October. The countries of the former Soviet Union, Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain hold leading places in Romania's export. The activity of private trade companies reported a 1.9 per cent increase in export and a 2.1 per cent increase in import as against the 1991 average.

Retail sales were 3.8 higher than in September and 10 per cent lower than last year's. Market supplies of most products diminished as against last year, with drops ranging between 15.6 at oil and 63.1 per cent at rice.

October take-home salaries rose by 3.3 per cent on September. Some 959,369 unemployed were reported on 16 November, 10.3 per cent higher than in September; the unemployment rate reached 8.6 per cent.

First Bonds To Widen Financial Market Issued

AU0312105792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1951 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 2/12/1992—Wednesday, December 2, through the branches of the Central Insurance Bank all over Romania, the first installment of the public loan worth 2.5 billion lei was floated. The loan consists of bearer bonds for two or three years. The bonds are worth 25,000, 50,000, and 100,000 lei apiece,

and the state-guaranteed interest is 50 percent. This installment is meant to test the market.

The Minister of Economy and Finance pointed out that the initiative to issue bonds aimed at finding new financing resources for the budget deficit and at widening the Romanian financial market.

Minority Count From January Census Viewed
AU0212114192 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1053 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 2/12/1992—The Hungarian minority in Romania accounts for 7.1 percent of the country's total population, statistical data in the January 7, 1992 census show. In absolute figures, of the 22,760,449 Romanian citizens 20,352,980 stated in the census that they were of Romanian nationality and 1,620,199 said they were of Hungarian nationality.

The Hungarian minority is represented in Romania's Parliament by the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, an ethnic party that got 13 seats in the Senate and 27 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (that is 8.39 and, respectively, 9.15 percent of the seats in the two chambers) in the parliamentary elections held on September 27, 1992. The Romanian Senate has 143 seats and the Chamber of Deputies 328 members. The Romanian parliament includes 13 representatives of the national minorities. They are Armenians (who, according to the same census data, total 2,023); Slovaks and Czechs (20,672 and, respectively, 5,800); Bulgarians (9,935); Turk-Tatars (24,649); Ukrainians (66,833); Italians (under 2,000); Germans (119,436); Greeks (3,897); Russians and Lippovans (38,688); Serbians (29,080); Romanies (409,723); Turks (29,533); and Poles (4,247).

Since the 1977 census taken in 1977, the ethnic Hungarian population has increased by 5.5 percent. Sociologists show that Romanies in the Romanian historical province of Transylvania prefer to declare themselves

Hungarians or Romanians, which makes it quite difficult to assess their number for certain.

The 7.1 percent ethnic Hungarians in Romania, represented in parliament by the Hungarian Democratic Union, won 7.58 percent of the vote in the September 1992 elections for the Senate and 7.46 percent of the vote in the elections for the Chamber of Deputies.

In the 1991-92 school year as many as 2,428 units of preschool, primary, high school, lyceum, vocational and post-lyceum education (accounting for 8.5 percent of the total number of such learning units) had tuition in Hungarian. As to the 1989-90 period, the number of units and departments with tuition in Hungarian increased by 283. In the 1991-92 school year there were 133 lyceum sections with tuition in Hungarian, of which 33 are units with tuition in Hungarian alone. Furthermore, there are seven pedagogic lyceums with grades with tuition in Hungarian and two health lyceums and a theologic lyceum with tuition only in Hungarian.

As many as 8,777 students of Hungarian nationality were enrolled in universities in the 1991-92 academic year. Of the 1,570 students of Hungarian nationality in the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca 571 studied 197 disciplines in Hungarian upon request. Of the 359 students of Hungarian nationality enrolled in the Medical and Pharmacy Institute in Tirgu-Mures 329 studied 56 disciplines in their mother tongue. All the 41 students of the Istvan Szentgyorgyi Drama Institute in Tirgu-Mures studied in their mother tongue.

Five percent of the total teaching staff in Romania work in units with tuition in Hungarian. In the counties of Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Bihor, Satu Mare, Cluj, Arad and Timis there are directors and deputy directors of Hungarian nationality in all the units and departments with tuition in Hungarian. Furthermore, school inspectors in the counties of Covasna and Harghita and deputy school inspectors in the counties of Brasov, Mures, Cluj, Satu Mare and Bihor are of Hungarian nationality.

UN Forces Report Danish Soldier Kidnapped*AU0212202892 Paris AFP in English 2024 2 Dec GMT 92*

[Text] Sarajevo, Dec 2 (AFP)—A Danish non-commissioned officer of the United Nations Protection Force was kidnapped Wednesday [2 December] near Kiseljak, 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Sarajevo, the force announced in a statement.

The officer was jogging six kilometres from Kiseljak, where the main headquarters of the U.N. force is located, when he was forced to get into a red Volkswagen Golf driven by two men dressed in military combat clothing, it said.

Kiseljak is in Croat-controlled territory.

Kidnapped Dane Released*AU0312083492 Paris AFP in English 0223 GMT 3 Dec 92*

[Text] Sarajevo, Dec 3 (AFP)—A Danish lance-corporal of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, kidnapped Wednesday [2 December], was released late in the day, the U.N. headquarters here announced.

Brian Nielsen, 22, was freed by his kidnappers near the Bosnian town of Kiseljak where he was seized while jogging Wednesday. United Nations headquarters said he was unable to give any details about his captors.

A U.N. force statement said the soldier was jogging six kilometres (four miles) south of Kiseljak, when he was forced to get into a red Volkswagen Golf driven by two men dressed in military fatigues.

Kiseljak, where the main headquarters of the U.N. force is located, is in Croat-controlled territory.

The Danish soldier was wearing a U.N. blue baseball cap, carrot-coloured T-shirt, yellow and purple running tights and running shoes when he was abducted.

Around 200 Danish troops are posted at the Kiseljak headquarters.

Prison Chief Denies MacKenzie Visited Premises*AU0212211292 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] The satanization of Serbia and the Serbian nation continues. All sorts of lies are being manufactured about us. The most recent such example was the so-called Herak case which was picked up by the international news media. Namely, a certain Borislav Herak made a statement to Sarajevo television a few days ago, which is controlled by Alija Izetbegovic [president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency], to the effect that he had been allegedly butchering Muslims and that General MacKenzie had been visiting a brothel. The SRNA news agency statement has more details:

We are surprised by Borislav Herak's statement made on Sarajevo television, say the Muslims imprisoned in the provisional prison in Vogosca. Why he said this we do not know, but we state resolutely that everything he said about General MacKenzie and the alleged existence of a brothel in a house where we are located is a pure fabrication and a lie. It is obviously his job to slander General MacKenzie and the Serbian fighters. The Muslims under detention say that Herak recently was a prisoner here himself, in a facility which not only contains Muslim prisoners but also criminals and Serbian fighters who have broken the law, says the head of the prison, Nebojsa Spiric. Spiric denied the accusations made by Herak that MacKenzie was visiting a public house which had been transformed into a brothel. This is a lie, as MacKenzie never entered these premises. I am not even sure whether he came to Vogosca at all. [passage omitted]

UN Gorazde Relief Convoy Halted at Kukavice*LD0212154692 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] A humanitarian convoy that left Belgrade for Gorazde yesterday has not yet arrived at its destination, an Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] spokesman has said in Zagreb. According to the latest reports available to the UNHCR office, the convoy was stopped at a checkpoint near the village of Kukavice this morning by Serb forces who insisted that they had not been informed about the convoy's passage. The UNHCR has dispatched to Gorazde 12 trucks, each carrying nine tonnes of food. The convoy is being escorted by French soldiers. Another convoy is expected to leave Belgrade for Srebrenica tomorrow.

Serbs Reportedly Down Aircraft Carrying Weapons*LD0312113492 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1111 GMT 3 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, 3 Nov (TANJUG)—SRNA news agency reported today, quoting Bihac-based Serb military sources, that yesterday Serb forces downed an enemy aircraft carrying weapons.

The agency said that the aircraft was flying from the direction of Zagreb and that it was to land at the airport in Colarici near Cazin.

The aircraft was downed by Serb anti-aircraft fire. The agency did not report anything about the type of the aircraft nor did it specify where it was downed.

Belgrade Radio Reports 'Fierce' Fighting*AU0212175292*

[Editorial Report] Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1400 GMT on 2 December carries several reports in its regular 30-minute newscast on the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Hercegovina correspondent Jelena Dabarcic reports that "at about 0830 today, long-range artillery fire was aimed at civilian targets in the Nevesinje Commune area. About 30 130mm shells were launched. A general alert was sounded later in the morning and people took to their shelters. After the attack on civilian targets in the Nevesinje Commune, a strong artillery attack was launched on Serbian positions in the area patrolled by the Nevesinje Brigade between Hodovo and Brstanik and between Mostar and the foot of Velez Mountain."

Reporting from the Sava basin, Brana Bozic says that "at about 0400 the Croatian side launched an all-out attack along its entire line, extending from the village of Grebnice near Samac to the village of Vidovice southeast of Orasje. Infantry and tanks are exerting fierce pressure against the Ostra Luka-Obudovac and Matici-Covic Polje lines. They have artillery support from 155mm and 203mm howitzers from the Croatian side of the Sava near Zupanja. Serbian military sources report that the First Krajina Corps, Eastern Bosnian Corps, and special Republic of Serbian Krajina militia units have used substantial manpower and military hardware, so that according to many local assessments, this is the crucial battle for this road connecting the Krajinas with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia."

Sarajevo correspondent Risto Djogo says that "fighting has been fierce after the several days of respect for the truce. The Muslim Green Berets stationed at Igman, Hrasnica, Kovac, and Butmir have continued the artillery and infantry attacks against Ilidza that they began last night. Rajlovac is being attacked from Sokolje Brdo. Artillery attacks were followed by infantry assaults. Serbian military sources report that there are casualties on both sides but do not give any details."

In his report on the continuing clashes in the Una Valley, Milan Pantovic says that battles are "raging" there today. The attackers had about 20 dead and three times as many wounded during yesterday and last night alone. The Muslim attack is supported by artillery and mortar fire from positions near Sokolac and the medieval town of Ostrozac in the Una Valley."

Reporting from Teslic, Milan Savic says that "on the Teslic, Tesanj, and Maglaj fronts, the attacks by Alija Izetbegovic's formations and Ustasha black shirt units on the Serbian Republic positions continue unabated for the third day in a row. In their attacks today, combined Ustasha-Muslim units fiercely attacked the Serbian positions along the (?Viskus)-Cerovica line. Fierce artillery and infantry battles were waged in the Vrela area from

early morning until the early afternoon. The fiercest attacks on the Maglaj battlefield have been reported around Kuzino Groblje and in the vicinity of the Brezovi Dani village."

Sarajevo Radio Describes Hand-to-Hand Combat *AU0312120292*

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1100 GMT on 3 December carries in its regular 20-minute newscast several reports on the fighting in the republic.

Reporting from Doboj, Mirudin Aldobasic reports that "since early morning in the eastern part of the front, combined artillery and infantry clashes have been taking place, with occasional tank fire, while fierce infantry battles were being fought near Ularice in the early morning hours. So the aggressor's so-called winter offensive on the free Doboj territory is still under way, but the defenders can claim another success. During the night, the Doboj fighters destroyed yet another armored transporter, while over 30 enemy soldiers have been killed."

In his report from Bugojno, Kemal Balihodzic says that "just before 1700 yesterday evening, the town started to vibrate with the explosions of artillery shells. Our defenders responded fiercely to the attack, and after one hour exchanging fire the aggressor's artillery was silenced. The night was relatively quiet, with sporadic fire from machine guns and infantry weapons."

An unidentified correspondent reports from Visoko that "yesterday evening, dozens of shells landed on the town. The enemy used heavy artillery throughout the night, while this morning is marked by the usual fire from automatic weapons and snipers."

Finally, the Information Service of the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Hercegovina reports from Sarajevo that "in the early morning hours, the enemy resumed its combined infantry and armored attacks with substantial artillery support at (?Osjek), (?Zabosna), Otes and Pejton. The fact that this morning it even came to hand to hand fighting in Otes bears witness to the ferocity of the fighting. There are heavy losses on both sides, but the line remains the same. The chetniks have been driven back to their initial positions. There are some indications that the chetniks could again today use chemical agents in this battle zone, as they are furious at the loss of yet another tank and their incapacity to turn the situation to their advantage."

Federal**Election Registration Procedure Detailed**

*LD0312102392 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1711 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Dec (TANJUG)—Registration for electoral lists will end on 5 December, 15 days before the elections, so people intending to vote have very little time to check whether they have been registered.

No changes to the electoral lists may be made 48 hours prior to the elections. Illegal nonregistration or erasure of voters from electoral lists is an offence punishable by one year of imprisonment.

Three days after the elections were called, registration bodies were dutybound to inform citizens that they can check whether or not they are registered or that they can request changes to the lists.

Electoral lists are permanent public records identical throughout the country.

After the registration is completed, by 8 December at the latest, the Federal Electoral Commission will declare the number of voters in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in each electoral district.

Changes to electoral lists thereafter can be made only through the courts. Electoral lists are updated by law in an election year. Voters are registered in their place of residence.

Yugoslav citizens temporarily working abroad are registered in their last place of residence in the country. The same is true of citizens who are doing their military service, who are attending military exercises, who are in prison or in detention.

People banned from doing business by a court order will not be able to register. Names of such people will be erased from electoral lists and they will be reregistered when the courts allow them to do business.

Registration on and erasure from electoral lists are carried out as an official requirement on the basis of data from birth records, official records, public records, and through direct inspection.

At the request of voters, registration on or erasure from electoral lists can be carried out on the basis of other valid evidence.

A decision on a request to change electoral lists must be made 48 hours [from when the request is made]. Citizens can appeal against a court ruling to the relevant courts. The appeal is made through registration bodies. A court will decide on appeals within 24 hours and this ruling is valid and effective.

A decision on the completion of electoral lists containing the number of registered voters is to be submitted to district electoral commissions within 24 hours and to the Federal Electoral Commission within the next 24 hours.

Changes to electoral lists after registration is completed are possible only through the courts but not within 48 hours prior to the elections.

Verified copies of electoral lists are to be compiled for each polling station and handed to the relevant electoral commissions 24 hours after registration is completed. The Federal Electoral Commission supervises by law the overall registration process.

Daily Claims U.S. Launches 'Spy Satellite'

*LD0312110592 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1024 GMT 3 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 3 (TANJUG)—The goal of the mission of the U.S. space shuttle Discovery is to launch a ten-ton spy satellite which will "cover the southern Slav region and potentially explosive Euro-Asian region," the Belgrade daily VECERNJE NOVOSTI said on Thursday [3 December].

Discovery, with a five-member crew, was launched from the Cape Kennedy on Wednesday in the organization of the Pentagon, the daily said adding that the mission was treated as a top secret.

The U.S. has held its warships in the Adriatic Sea for months and set up a field hospital at the Zagreb Airport a few weeks ago. As of Wednesday, a state-of-the-art spy satellite will monitor the skies over the war-torn former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

U.S. warships participate in a naval blockade of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which is part of the U.N. May 30 sanctions against the FRY whose republics Serbia and Montenegro were blamed for the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Paramilitary formations of the Bosnian Moslems and Croats, supported by the regular army of the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia, used arms to reckon with the Bosnian Serbs who opposed the secessionist policy of the Moslem-Croat coalition in the republic's leadership.

The Army of the FRY withdrew from Bosnia-Herzegovina on May 19 and does not participate in the fighting there.

Ministry Releases Data on Trade Under Sanctions

*LD0212213492 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1623 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 2 (TANJUG)—the U.N. sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on May 30 this year have halved its exports in the first nine months of the year, the Yugoslav Trade and Industry Ministry said on Wednesday [2 December].

In the January-October period, exports totalled 2.139 billion dollars and imports 3.286 billion, leaving Yugoslavia with a trade deficit of 1.147 billion, as against 593 million in the same period last year.

Remittances from Yugoslavs working abroad amounted to 1.122 billion dollars.

The figures for the first nine months of the year, however, do not give a true picture of the situation in the Yugoslav economy because trade and financial links with the world had proceeded unhampered until the sanctions were introduced, the ministry said.

As far as foreign loans are concerned, the ministry added, all dues to commercial banks have been rescheduled, while government loans repayments have been frozen.

Over the period, Yugoslavia repaid 194 million dollars on its principal debt. Fifty-nine million was repaid in the third quarter of the year, of which 41 million to the International Monetary Fund.

Yugoslavia's foreign debt is currently estimated at 11 billion dollars.

Government Calls For Lifting of Sanctions

*LD0212203392 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1535 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 2 (TANJUG)—The government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has asked the U.N. to lift sanctions in the area of environmental protection, Deputy Federal Ecology Minister Sofija Vujanac-Borovnica told TANJUG on Wednesday [2 December].

Vujanac-Borovnica said sanctions in this area could only aggravate the crisis in Yugoslavia.

The U.N. on May 30 this year imposed tough economic and political sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on account of its alleged involvement in the war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We have demanded an abolition of the sanctions—if not all, then at least those concerning scientific and technological cooperation and the right to a healthy life and clean environment, she said, adding that numerous water purification (?facilities) in Yugoslavia had stopped operating as a result of a shortage of necessary materials or expensive upkeep, increasing the risk to the environment.

Assembly Committees Discuss Draft Army Law

*LD0212204592 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1420 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, 2 December (TANJUG)—The committees for defence and security of the chambers of the Federal Assembly today supported, in principle, the draft law on the Army of Yugoslavia. The law should be approved by the end of the year.

Most of the objections, in the view of the deputies, related to the large powers bestowed on the Federal Government and Ministry of Defense, so it was suggested that part of this work be transferred to the president of the Federal Republic, as the supreme commander, to the Supreme Defense Council, and to the chief of staff, as the primary military operative.

Representatives of the Federal Government and of the Army of Yugoslavia in the main accepted these suggestions and they will be included in the final wording of the law.

Lieutenant Colonel General Ljubomir Domazetovic, a representative of the Ministry of Defense and of the Federal Government, drew particular attention to the need to adopt this law as soon as possible, because the new situation that has arisen must be given a legal framework. This relates, he said, to the fact that a completely new army of Yugoslavia has been created which is operating in changed circumstances, and a legal void could have harmful consequences.

The draft law was drawn up on the basis of experiences from the past three wars and aims to prevent things that brought about tragic consequences, General Domazetovic said. He also recalled that the draft law aims to deal with all military issues, which were previously regulated by as many as six laws.

Views were expressed in the course of the discussion that each aspect of military life should have been dealt with by a special law, as used to be the case. However, the view that the new draft law is acceptable prevailed.

Ratko Krsmanovic insisted on the right of civilians working for the Yugoslav Army to set up trade unions, which the law currently bans. This, according to him, is necessary in order to protect civilians and experts working in the military industrial complex from arbitrary behavior on the part of officers.

Army representatives said that the Yugoslav Constitution explicitly bans setting up trade unions in the army. Otherwise the principles of command and combat readiness would be seriously brought into question, and harmful politicization would be introduced in the army ranks. Trade unions can be set up only in enterprises working for the army, but which are not subsidized by the army.

Krsmanovic also insisted that civilian personnel in the army be allowed medical treatment in military institutions.

Colonel Milos Kotic said that this is difficult to agree on, for the simple reason that the army has no money. This would mean an increase of 30 percent in the size of army administration. According to current plans about 10,000 civilian experts and personnel are expected to be employed by the Army of Yugoslavia.

Milenko Saranovic criticized the legal provision under which recruitment affairs will be centralized and handled by the Army of Yugoslavia. In his view, as before this task should be discharged by local state authorities, since this is primarily an affair of the state.

General Domazetovic responded by noting that the new provision was drawn up on the basis of the most recent combat experience and that one day, when a stable law-governed state is in place, military recruitment will be transferred to local authorities.

The committees for defense and security of the Yugoslav Assembly chambers were today expected to discuss a draft law on the defense of the country, but the debate was postponed. Radmilo Bogdanovic suggested that before the law is submitted for consideration, relevant ministries in the republic should give their opinion in view of the fact that

under the draft law defense affairs will be concentrated within the competence of federal authorities.

Panic Article Urges Anti-Milosevic Vote

*PM0212155292 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT
in Dutch 30 Nov 92 p 7*

[Article by Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic: "Milosevic Ignores All His Promises"]

[Text] The overwhelming majority of the population of Yugoslavia wants the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be stopped and prevented from spilling over into Kosovo. For they are aware that this is a necessary precondition if the international isolation of Yugoslavia is to be lifted.

Recently the UN Security Council decided that the supply of television equipment to the only television station operating independently of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party should be excluded from the embargo against Yugoslavia. Thanks to this decision the views of the majority will finally be heard in public.

Through technical support for the independent media which are critical of the extreme nationalism on which the idea of a "greater Serbia" rests, the media monopoly of the Serbian Socialist Party is being attacked. And given the fact that the political power of Milosevic's party is dependent to a significant extent on how far it is able to manipulate public opinion, it is not impossible that as a result they will eventually lose their grip on power.

Recently the United Nations, after unprecedentedly united action by NATO and the Western European Union, again tightened the economic embargo against Yugoslavia. The fact that an exception was nevertheless made for television equipment shows that the international community has made a distinction between the ruling party which has fanned the war and the democratically oriented forces which hope to be able to rejoin Europe and the rest of the world in the future.

Perhaps people have finally understood that the whole spectrum of sanctions against Iraq cannot be applied unthinkingly to Yugoslavia. Unlike in the case of Iraq, there are in Yugoslavia still viable and capable forces standing ready which are prepared for a radical change of course. And perhaps people have finally realized that the total isolation of a whole nation plays into the hands of precisely those demagogues who have brought their people into this disastrous situation.

The demagogues attack the hostile attitude of the rest of the world and play on it as the most important excuse for their authoritarian power, the final excuse at the very moment when they are totally ignoring the interests of the people in whose name they claim they are acting.

The actions of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic are completely at odds with the interests of his people. During the London conference in August he solemnly promised—both in public and in private talks with Cyrus Vance [cochairmen of the Conference on Yugoslavia] and Lord Carrington [former Conference on Yugoslavia chairman]

who were then the representatives of the United Nations and the European Community respectively—that he would no longer support the "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also agreed to a guarantee of human rights in Kosovo. And he signed the "code of civilized behavior," a code which British Prime Minister John Major and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had drawn up. This code also included "respect for borders."

Milosevic knows how he can restore peace, just as he also knows the terms on which Yugoslavia would again be admitted to the international community as a full member. But by betraying any confidence shown in Yugoslavia and ignoring every promise he made, he has torpedoed the chance of breaking Yugoslavia's isolation. Thus, for example, he tried to sabotage my attempts to prevent a religious conflict in Kosovo. In short, in the name of the glorious Serbian past Milosevic put the future of his people at risk.

On 20 December, the day on which the first really free parliamentary elections will be held in Yugoslavia, the people have the chance to show the world that they want a future that is different from that which Milosevic's Socialist Party has in mind.

It remains to be seen whether the supporters of democracy—including myself and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic—can form a single opposition bloc. Nevertheless, in my view every vote against the Socialist Party must be seen as a vote against the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and against the policy which has brought so many disasters down on Yugoslavia.

However, it is of crucial importance here that the people, when they go to the polls in this first and fragile attempt at democracy, should not doubt that the world is on their side when they vote for a new future.

The voters have to know that after an election defeat both for the regime and the policies against which sanctions are directed, the United Nations will reconsider and eventually lift its sanctions against Yugoslavia.

With a new government in Washington on the way, pressure is felt for more determined action on the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, so that it can be brought to an end and a general war in the Balkans avoided. One of the proposals in this context has been to exclude arms supplies to the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the embargo.

On 22 November former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger aired the view that the United Nations would have to intervene if Kosovo too becomes the scene of "ethnic cleansing." He said: "We are approaching the limits of what is acceptable," and we must let the Serbs know that every further step will lead to intervention.

The people of Yugoslavia have at their disposal an effective means of promoting peace in the Balkans: they can inflict an election defeat on the Socialist Party. The rest of the world

can best improve the chances of such an outcome by reassuring the voters that all punitive sanctions will be lifted if they vote for peace.

Panic Repeats Assertion That Sanctions 'Unjust'

*LD0212143392 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1342 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, December 2 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic drew attention to German Social Democrat (SDP) parliamentarian Peter Glotz to the efforts the Federal Government was investing towards securing humanitarian aid for the population of the war-shattered former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Panic informed his guest about some characteristic features of the [word indistinct] situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which could lead to an end to war, if all three peoples opted for creating a realistic accord on the future constitutional arrangement of the republic.

The fighting between the three peoples (Moslems, Croats and Serbs) began almost eight months ago, when Moslems and Croats decided to form an independent unitary state, without the consent of the Serbs.

On May 30, the United Nations imposed sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia over its alleged involvement in the ethnic and civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking about the sanctions, Panic repeated the stand that they were unjust, as they affected mostly innocent citizens, and even threatened the very essence of humanitarian aid. Because, as he said, if the children in Bosnia-Herzegovina were dying as a consequence of war and the children in Yugoslavia were dying as a consequence of cold, then the result was the same.

It was jointly noted during the talks that the recent visit of Prime Minister Panic to Bonn and the talks he had there with Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Kinkel, was useful and necessary for the exchange of views on the most topical problems of the Yugoslav crisis and also some questions pertaining to bilateral relations.

Serbia

Party Protests TV Refusal To Air Broadcast

*LD0212225792 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1911 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Dec (TANJUG)—The election headquarters of the Democratic Movement of Serbia (Depos) today sent a protest letter to Serbian radio and television because the department responsible for television party political broadcasts refused to air the Depos party political broadcast entitled "This Is Serbia Too."

Depos rejects arguments by the department that the Depos election broadcast "is in direct contradiction with generally accepted stands" and that it "denigrates the slogan of the other side."

Stressing that "principles on party political broadcasts have been reached at roundtable talks between the government and the opposition," Depos rejects criticism of Serbian radio and television. However, Depos is saying "that Serbia can be pictured the way the other side is portraying it."

In the letter to Serbian radio and television, the Depos election headquarters stresses "we will inform the Serbian Supervisory Election Committee about the ban on the 'This Is Serbia Too' party political broadcast."

Paroski: Names Deleted From Election Lists

*LD0212223092 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1653 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 2 Dec (TANJUG)—Milan Paroski, chairman of the National Party (NS), told a news conference given by the Serbian opposition in the international press center in Belgrade today that the authorities first did not allow Serbian citizens abroad to vote at the forthcoming elections, and are now deleting names of Serbs from Serbia from electoral lists.

Representatives of the opposition coalition comprising the NS, the Serbian Democratic Party for Serbia and the Royalist Bloc, stated that names of people who had not taken part at the last federal elections and the referendum on the changes to the Serbian Constitution are being deleted, especially in Belgrade.

Paroski said in this connection: "Either people with Serbian citizenship will be allowed to vote or we will not stand in the elections." [passage omitted]

A delegation of the Serbian opposition will travel to Macedonia tomorrow at the invitation of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party of the Macedonian National Unity. According to Paroski, a common past, culture and spirituality give hope that a joint state "of united Serbian states and the imperial Macedonian territory" would be formed.

Uzice Corps Protecting Region From Bosnian War

*LD0212165392 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1508 GMT 2 Dec 92*

[Text] Uzice, Dec 2 (TANJUG)—The commander of the Uzice Corps of the Yugoslav Army, General Dragoljub Ojdanic, said on Wednesday [2 December] that his troops, deployed in Serbia's region Raska, (Sandzak), where Moslems make up one half of the population, "are successfully carrying out their tasks."

"Our basic aims are to prevent the spread of the war from the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina into Serbia" and "to secure the peace, which could be threatened by secessionist forces" in the Raska region, Gen. Ojdanic told a press conference in Uzice, a city in western Serbia and the headquarters of the corps.

"A war is raging in our vicinity and the secessionist forces, at least their most extreme parts, have not given up their aims," he said and added that the "population of Raska is armed, which is yet another threat to peace."

The Party of Democratic Action (SDA), which rallies Moslems from Raska, urges the secession of this region from Serbia and its annexation to Bosnia.

SDA leader Sulejman Ugljanin last month even threatened to call the region's Moslems to rise against the legal authorities unless the Yugoslav Army and police units withdraw from the region.

Macedonia

Stojkov Comments on 'Conspiracy From the Outside'

AU0212110892 Vienna DER STANDARD in German
2 Dec 92 p 4

[Report by Dardan Gashi: "A Conspiracy From the Outside"]

[Excerpt] Vienna/Skopje—The hesitation of the West to recognize Macedonia is driving the republic slowly, but surely into an abyss. The economy is going to waste, more than one-third of the population is unemployed; strikes and nationality conflicts are corroding inner stability.

In the serious clashes between the Macedonian police and members of the Albanian minority in Skopje's bazaar in early November, the country was spared a civil war by a hairbreadth, the politician confirmed anxiously in Skopje. However, that is not a conflict between Albanians and Macedonians, but a "conspiracy from the outside," Stoile Stojkov, head of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Macedonian Parliament, told DER STANDARD. [passage omitted]

Kosovo

Serbs Reportedly Dismissing Albanian Doctors

AU0212094192 Tirana ATA in English 0931 GMT
02 Dec 92

[Text] Tirana, December 2 (ATA)—ATA's coworker [correspondent] in Pristina, Behlul Jashari writes:

Serb violence in the health institutions of Kosovo are increasingly depriving the Albanian of the right to protect his health. Over 30 health institutions in Kosovo are under violent actions. 80 per cent of health centers in villages are closed, and experts of medicine are being dismissed from work continuously. Nearly 1900 Albanian working people of

health, doctors of sciences, specialists, general doctors and others have been forcibly dismissed from work until now. Forty gynecologists were dismissed from work for only two months. The maternity home in Rahovec was closed. The Albanian doctors of the ambulance in the Hill of the Brave Men in Pristina were warned that they would be dismissed. Many diseases forgotten are now spread in Kosovo due to this very grave health situation.

Numerous facts will be provided in Geneva conference for these and other grave problems of health service in Kosovo. Three commissions on health are set up in Kosovo which will cooperate with the representatives of Geneva conference. Regarding these problems, during his latest stay in Kosovo, Gert Arens, chairman of the special group on Kosovo, held a long talk with the Albanian health working people of Kosovo.

Rugova, Macedonian Albanian Party To Cooperate

AU0312115492 Tirana ATA in English 0929 GMT
3 Dec 92

[Text] Tirana, December 3 (ATA)—The ATA coworker [correspondent] in Pristina, Belul Jashari, writes:

The president of the Republic of Kosovo Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, after the visit to Albania to mark the 80th anniversary of the independence, on the way to Kosovo, stopped in Tetova. There he had negotiations with the leaders of the Democratic Prosperity Party—the greatest party joining the Albanians in Macedonia. After negotiations, Dr. Rugova and Nevzat Halili, held a press conference. Dr. Rugova told the reporters that negotiations concentrated on the agreement for a concrete cooperation here and in the world too, where the Democratic League and the Democratic Prosperity Party, centered in Tetova have their branches.

Nevzat Halili spoke on the current situation and the goals of the Albanians in Macedonia. Speaking of the negotiations with the Macedonian party in the context of the international conference for former Yugoslavia, Nevzat Halili said that we are not very much pleased with the so far results, although some positive processes have been launched lately. In the context of the working group of the ethnic and national minorities, there has been formed a special group for the Albanians in Macedonia. With the consent of all parties in Geneva Gert Arens demanded the observation of the Hague document for the solution of all national issues in Macedonia, something for which was also declared the Macedonian parliament.